

News Tidbits

>>Mayor Dieter Moerlein of Eppelheim, a southwestern city in Germany, has invented what he calls “No Interest” benches. These special benches, which are installed in parks, are made for teens who have “no interest in following etiquette.” Moerlein came up with the idea after the city’s residents complained about the habit teenagers have of sitting on the tops of benches instead of the seats, which they dirty with their shoes. In one incident on a train, a 69-year-old pensioner, who had asked a teen to take his feet off a seat, wounded the 18-year-old with a knife. This is coming from a country known for its extreme sense of neatness, where passersby will scold you for placing your feet on public benches. Apparently, “the reception has been overwhelming,” as other cities in Germany have expressed an interest in these benches. (Reuters)

>> Jerry Maestas, a 64-year-old man from Espanola, New Mexico, is facing charges after having failed to report the death of a 33-year-old woman. According to police officers, Maestas had driven to the hospital emergency room and asked the hospital staff to help the sick woman, whose decaying body he had placed into the passenger seat of his car. Judging from the smell, however, staff could tell that she was already dead, and autopsy results show that she was dead for about a day and a half. (Reuters)

>>Apparently, baggy pants aren’t always a bad thing, even if they make you look like a fool. Kendrick Williams, a 17-year-old from St. Petersburg, Florida, claims that his baggy pants saved him from his demise at the hands (jaws) of a hungry alligator. He was walking home from work on Monday night when the six-to-seven-foot long carnivore tried to eat him. The gator was only able to chomp his baggy pants before he quickly ran away. Kendrick’s mother, Taurita Murray, says “that was the advantage of wearing baggy pants that day.” This incident is unfortunate for state lawmakers who have been hoping to pass legislature that would ban students of public schools from wearing baggy pants.



DR. CAROL JOHNSON, SUPERINTENDENT OF THE BOSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS IS AN AVID SUPPORTER OF STUDENT EVALUATIONS

Teachers Evaluated by Students

By B. KIM, II
NEWS EDITOR

Who can most accurately determine whether or not a certain teacher is doing their job efficiently and effectively on a day-to-day basis? Students having an input in their teachers’ official evaluations has been a topic of discussion from all corners of the nation—in Alaska and Colorado, the law gives both students and parents the opportunity to give their opinion regarding a teacher’s performance. And according to the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, “The average student knows effective teaching when

he or she experiences it,” and their data shows that the student feedback correlates accurately with their test scores and overall achievement.

For the last three years, the Boston Student Advisory Council (BSAC) have worked on developing a policy to provide students with the opportunity to give constructive feedback to all of their teachers.

BSAC is a body of students from a variety of the Boston Public high schools and is open for any BPS high school student to join. Their role is to advise the school committee as part of its decision making process, to keep their schools informed about relevant citywide

issues, and to work on certain policies and projects.

In May, 2010, the Boston School Committee finally approved BSAC’s proposal to implement the Constructive Feedback policy in the BPS high schools for the 2010-2011 school year. Developed by students, teachers, and an outside evaluation team, its aim is to give anonymous feedback to teachers based on their experiences and their learning styles and to be a constructive learning tool rather than a punitive one, with hopes that teachers will be able to adjust their teaching ssto accommodate the needs of their students.

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OBAMA STANDS IN FRONT OF HIS POTENTIAL CAMPAIGN SLOGAN

Obama Tries to Win the Future

By LUCY BURKE, II
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Recently, coverage of the 2012 election has boomed from every news outlet. Critics have plenty of questions about this upsurge: why does our campaign season last two years? Why are candidates using such combative language? Why are we even bothering with campaigns when the world will have already ended by then? There is currently no front-runner for the GOP’s nomination, and even Obama’s re-nomination is technically uncertain, although he formally announced on April 4 his intention to run

again.

Many of the known potential candidates of the 2012 campaign began this trek back in 2007. That year both former Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney and former Arkansas Governor and current Fox talk show host Mike Huckabee announced their plans to run in the 2008 election. It was also the year former Governor of Alaska Sarah Palin was introduced to the nation as the Vice Presidential candidate for the Republican Party. A lot has happened since 2007. McCain won the nomination but lost the presidency and announced that after two presidential bids he is done running

for Commander-in-chief, saying that “It’s time for a new generation.” And so the stage is set for new challengers as well as veterans in the Republican race.

So far we have witnessed the return of some familiar faces in the new campaign. Mike Huckabee has stated the probability of his entering the campaign, although he has not yet officially created an exploratory committee, gathered by him and his supporters to assess whether or not he is a viable candidate and whether or not to run for office. Mitt Romney has officially created an exploratory committee.

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Aftermath of the Nuclear Plant

By RICHARD FU, IV
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Workers at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant had the difficult task last Tuesday of balancing overheating reactors and the possibility of a radioactive spill into the coastal waters. Despite the negative reports and grim prospects, Chief Cabinet Secretary Yukio Edano says that he has a great deal of respect for those workers. Salt water was used as a weapon in the battle to cool off the nuclear facilities after the 8.9 magnitude earthquake, which struck off the northeast coast of Japan on March 11, took out the major cooling systems. This seems to be a short-term solution, nevertheless, as space for the water is limited.

Yukio Edano told reporters that the focus was on, “removing the water and containing it safely.” He is currently the government’s main source of information regarding the crisis. Sand bags and concrete panels were used by workers to keep contaminated water in a maintenance tunnel under the turbine plant of the second reactor located 180 feet from the Pacific shoreline. Concerns were raised over safety principles, and freshwater is currently being used to cool reactor number three.

The Tokyo Electric Power Company (TEPCO) says workers are pumping water out of the turbines of reactors number one and three. The lights have been restored in the control room reactor number four.

Jim Walsh, a security expert at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) says, “TEPCO is in an awful dilemma right now. On one hand, they want to cool the reactor, and keep the reactor cool, so they have to pour water in. If there is a leak in one of the containment vessels, that water keeps leaking out. So they have a problem where the more they try to cool it down, the greater the radiation hazard as that water leaks out from the plant.” Authorities say they do not think that the seawater contamination is coming from the plant, but actually the particles carried by runoff or radiation falling from the atmosphere.

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NEWS

Editor’s Note

Hello, dear reader!

Welcome to the fifth official issue of the *Argo*. As I’m sure you all know, April vacation is approaching and the school year is starting to come to a close. For most students, this time of year isn’t terribly significant. But for seniors, this is a critical and often excruciating period. It is a time of nail-biting over financial aid packages, flying and driving all over the country to make college visits, writing pros-and-cons lists, and generally freaking out over the approaching May 1st college decision deadline. Of course, there are the lucky ones who have already made their decisions, but the rest of us are left to languish in our uncertainty. Thus, this production week was filled with college visits, nail-biting, and the aforementioned freaking out, but I suppose that everything can always be made better with Kandi bracelets and Cadbury eggs (not to mention copious amounts of Final Friday pizza).

But this time of year isn’t just college decision time—it is also a critical period for BLS’s musical groups, as the MICCA festival took place this weekend. MICCA is a music festival that takes place once a year and draws musical groups from high- and middle schools from across the state, and each group is graded on their performance with a bronze, silver, or gold medal (or an honorable mention, if the performance doesn’t go as planned...). In the past few years, most of our groups have gotten silver or bronze medals, with a gold medal sometimes thrown into the mix. However, both the Concert Choir and the Concert Strings have already gotten gold medals this year, and as I am writing this we do not know about the outcome of the band performance, but we are all obviously hoping that the Concert Band will receive a gold ranking as well (no pressure, guys...!) So this week also saw its fair share of editors dashing off to MICCA practices and performances, but it all paid

off in the end.

As you can probably tell by now, the past few days have been pretty hectic for all of us here at the *Argo*. But I think we’ve pulled together a pretty great issue. There’s an interesting and very informative article about Belarus in the Forum section, a great A&E article talking about what it takes for Concert Choir to prepare for the MICCA festival, a sports versus about March Madness, a Science and Technology article on AT&T acquiring T-Mobile, and News articles covering some very interesting current events, from those that are close to home—like the implementation of teacher evaluations—to those that have significance on a national level—like the scarcely averted government shutdown and the Libyan air strike. So, dear reader, enjoy!

Your (more) loving and doting and BEAUTIFUL Co-Editor-In-Chief,
Reed

Government Shutdown...or Not

BY BEVERLY NGUYEN, I
News Editor

Last Friday, around 11 pm, both parties of the U.S. Congress finally came to an agreement on a short-term budget that prevented the government from facing a government shutdown. The budget, which President Obama has signed into law, will last until April 15th and cut an estimated \$2 billion in spending. Another \$38.5 billion in spending cuts, which is meant for the rest of the fiscal year, was also approved upon and included in the bill. Since it lasts for only six days, the government is expected to vote this Wednesday on a full budget that will be drawn up.

In the weeks leading up to Friday, the public worried about the potential government shutdown and the detrimental impact that it would have on them. However, now that the crisis has been

averted, even both parties are happy. Republican received the substantial spending cuts, the largest in history, that they had wanted, and Democrats were able to save federal funding for public services that had been in danger of being cut, such as Planned Parenthood and cervical cancer screenings. Federal employees were also kept from taking furlough days, paychecks for troops in Afghanistan and Iraq would come on time, and buildings, museums and National Parks run by the government were also kept from closing. Lawmakers and economists have agreed that if a bill had not been passed, the U.S. economy would have been severely impacted.

A similar situation had occurred during Clinton’s presidency in 1995, with a Democratic President and a Republican-controlled Congress. However, instead of passing the bill sent in by Congress, Clinton vetoed it,

which lead to a three-week shutdown of government. As a result, the public became very angry and blamed the government. In the end, the shutdown had a negative affect on the Republicans who were ultimately blamed for it, but a positive affect on President Clinton as his popularity rose.

On the other hand, the state of the economy in 1995 was in a much better place than it is today. In his weekly radio address, Obama said that he “would not have made these cuts in better circumstances. But we also prevented this important debate from being overtaken by politics and unrelated disagreements on social issues.”

America is also warned that some “cuts will be painful”, and that debates and negotiations will continue as Congress deals with the issues of the nation’s debt and the budget for the year of 2012.

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2010 –2011 Academic Year

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Excellence in News Writing

2011 Honorable Mention
Suffolk University High School
Journalism Competition
Excellence in Forum Writing

Libya: An Unsettling Uncertainty

By **CARLOS ROJAS, II**
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Inspired by revolutions that recently rocked neighboring Egyptians and Tunisians, thousands of Libyans took to the streets in peaceful protest for freedom and economic prosperity in April of 2011. A few months later, hundreds of thousands of Libyan rebels, compulsively aligned with an international community made up of twenty-eight nations, are still struggling against the powerful military regime of Muhammad Gaddafi.

Leading states of the world, including the United Kingdom, the United States along with European allies have promised aid and intervention. At all costs, the world seems determined to end Gaddafi's forty-year reign over the oil-rich country of Libya.

Gaddafi, however, has recently displayed the very qualities which have kept him in power for so long. He has vowed to deliver a bloody war. "We're not retreating anywhere," Gaddafi promised on a radio broadcast this past March. "You are going to return defeated." Gaddafi and his supporters have shown an unsettling determination to keep Gaddafi in power.

The United States has led massive airstrikes in an attempt to immobilize Libya's considerable air defenses. According to Vice Admiral William Gortney, more than 110 Tomahawk cruise missiles have been launched in order to take down critical points in Libya's defense system. In enforcing a no-fly zone over the country of Libya, the United Nations hopes to "shape the battle space" and clear the way for the Libyan rebels.

In the mean time, the United States Embassy in Tripoli has been closed and assets of the Libyan government, Gaddafi and his children have been frozen. The

hurried evacuation of American residents and diplomats in Libya has allowed for powerful military pressure on Libya.

Despite massive efforts, NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) has come under intense scrutiny for its reported ineffectiveness and the costly

intervention in Iran, Afghanistan and Iraq has wrought. Countless United States pundits have expressed grave concern over international intervention in Libya.

Jim Manzi, an American businessman and political commentator, argues that the United States "has finite resourc-

ces, and cannot hold [itself] responsible for the political freedom of every human being on Earth." Comments like this have sparked anger in many humanitarians who feel obligated to act. Hilary Clinton has made it clear that the Obama administration is conscious of the fact that people will be looking to the United States and asking, "What have you done?" Still, Manzi urges leaders to consider "the many ways that this could plausibly turn into a much more expensive proposition than is currently anticipated—and not only in terms of money."

The dangers of intervention in Libya are countless, according to experts. The liberal newspaper Financial Times Deutschland warns: "Establishing a no-fly zone over a country where an all-too determined dictator has a large air force and a bountiful arsenal of surface to air missiles means war." It is becoming progressively clear that Gaddafi does not plan to surrender and only recently has the international community recognized the extent of his power.

In aiding the Libyan rebels, the international community is germinating the likely possibility of a weak, dependent rebel force in Libya. Putting aside the equally likely possibility of Gaddafi succeeding, what happens if the Libyan forces succeed? What next?

Many fear these questions are not being considered thoroughly enough by the international leaders. What the future holds is indeterminate. But painfully clear is the uncertainty many of those leaders feel regarding future steps, despite a show of confidence in their opposition against Gaddafi. With bold rhetoric, Obama and his administration have sought to show that the United States would not simply stand by. Still, they are hesitant to lay out solid steps into the future. The U.S is cautious in laying out demands for Gaddafi, instead opting for language allowing for negotiation. The Libyan opposition, however, strongly disagrees. It has vowed to reject any plan put forth that does not demand the absolute abdication of Gaddafi.

Gaddafi has shown little sign of compromising, going as far as rallying his supporters over state television to take to the streets to fight the protesters. A roughly estimated 6,000 civilians have died so far.



AIR STRIKE OCCURS ALONG A ROAD BETWEEN BENGHAZI AND AJDABIYA

mistakes made under its leadership. The European Union, on the other hand, seems more confident than ever in its position. "Everyone knows that we must do something and in the coming days we will have a large mobilization of the international community," said a European diplomat.

While political leaders are eager to intervene once again in this humanitarian crisis, ordinary citizens of the world are left to predict the implications and repercussions of this increasingly full-fledged military, economic and political intervention. Many do remember what former

es, and cannot hold [itself] responsible for the political freedom of every human being on Earth." Comments like this have sparked anger in many humanitarians who feel obligated to act. Hilary Clinton has made it clear that the Obama administration is conscious of the fact that people will be looking to the United States and asking, "What have you done?" Still, Manzi urges leaders to consider "the many ways that this could plausibly turn into a much more expensive proposition than is currently anticipated—and not only in terms of money."

The dangers of intervention in

Ivory Coast in Turmoil Over Election

By **ALEC MACNEIL, III**
STAFF WRITER

The United Nations and other aid organizations have reported that anywhere between 330 to 1,000 people have been killed in the town of Duékoué in West Africa.

This slaughter is a result of the six month long conflict between the country's two opposing leaders: Alassane Ouattara, who won the recent presidential election in November, and Laurent Gbagbo, who claims the election was fixed and refuses to surrender power.

The conflict began immediately after November's election, when the United Nations and the African Union declared

Ouattara, a former prime minister, to have won by a nine-point margin. Yet, it was not a day later that the head of the Constitutional Council, a close ally of Gbagbo, threw out most of the votes from the northern region of the Ivory Coast, declaring them to be irregularities. Consequently, this led to both men claiming the presidency.

Endeavoring to remain in power, Gbagbo started an armed campaign with the support of his military and a portion of the population. Many of the banks holding such funds, however, have shut themselves down in order to prevent Gbagbo from drawing money from them. His campaign has been countering peaceful protests against him

by using machine gun fire and attacking the neighborhoods of Abidjan, the country's largest city.

Forces loyal to Ouattara, however, have defeated Gbagbo's army in numerous cities leading south of Abidjan. In Abidjan, it seems as if Gbagbo has lost all power in the city and even over the country as a whole, as almost 50,000 soldiers, including some of his generals, have either abandoned their posts or defected to the other side. Yet Gbagbo continues to fight with an ever-dwindling force, which he has deployed to protect his private residence, the nation's state television station and the presidential palace. There have also been reports of pro-Gbagbo youths, organized and armed, opening fire on Ouattaran forces and civilians alike in the streets of Abidjan. Many citizens were forced to lie flat on their floors for days in order to avoid potential stray bullets from the conflicts raging outside. Regardless, as conflicts endangering civilians take place around Gbagbo's residence, the presidential palace and the headquarters of the paramilitary gendarmerie, the United Nations have urged Ouattara to hold back in order to avoid human rights violations.

Out of concern for the well-being of the Ivorians in Abidjan, French President Nicolas Sarkozy, with aid from the United Nations, has ordered French troops into the city in order to assist in evacuations when their need becomes prevalent. They have managed to take control of the city's major airport and have evacuated some 200 United Nations employees after an attack on a UN office resulted

in the death of an employee. To allow for easy and quick transport to the airport, as well as to prevent potential hostage-taking, citizens will be gathered in a single place.

This most recent massacre in Duékoué occurred on April 2, as Ouattara's men had swept through the small town en route to Abidjan. There is, however, a discrepancy over which army committed the atrocity. While it has been stated that the men of both leaders are responsible, Ouattara released a press statement saying that his forces discovered the bodies in mass graves as they were passing through towards Abidjan. Furthermore, he went on to say that his men had reported to him that they had come across similar situations in other towns, yet none matched the scope of death encountered in Duékoué. While the Red Cross has reported that the deaths were a result of "intercommunal violence" in the town, it is still being investigated as to whether or not Ouattara or Gbagbo's men had anything to do with the massacre. If it is proven, however, that Ouattaran forces had something to do with the deaths of at least 330 men, it will not only show that he has little control over his own forces, but it will also tarnish his reputation amongst foreign countries, who view him as in a position of moral high ground in the conflict.

Nevertheless, UN peacekeepers have been sent into Duékoué, in order to prevent further potential conflicts as well as to protect a Catholic mission, where some 800 refugees have taken shelter.



THE CONFLICT CONTINUES TO RAGE IN THE STREETS

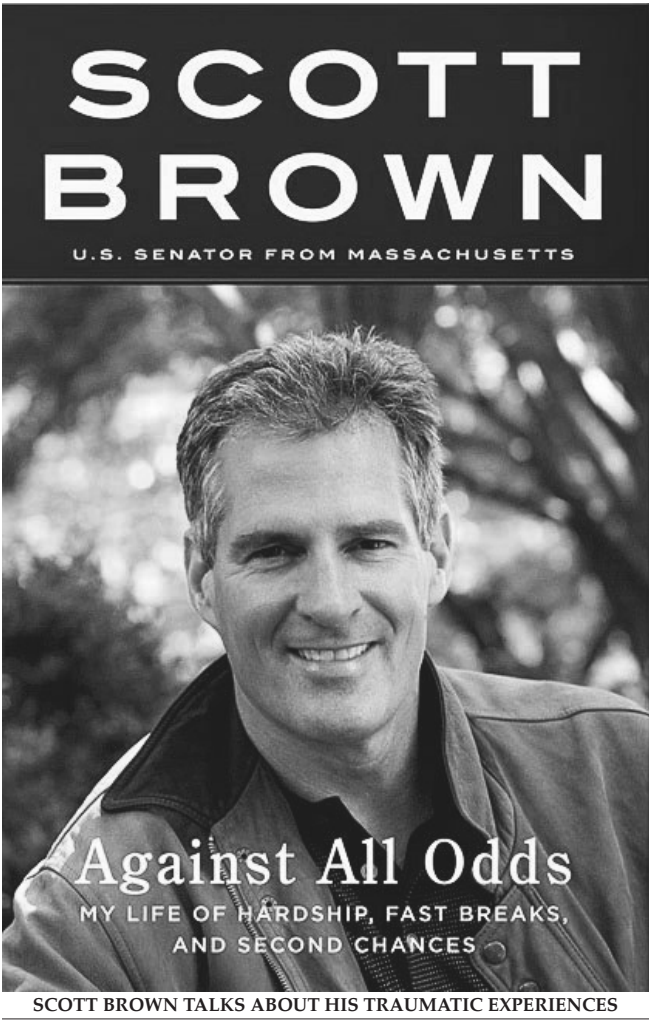
News

Camp Bad News

By DANIEL QIU, III
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Camp Good News, a Christian summer camp in Sandwich, has announced that it will not open this summer due to strong accusations of child abuse. Members of the staff are suspected to have sexually molested and abused children who attend the camp. These suspicions were raised after Senator Scott Brown published his memoir, "Against All Odds," in February, which includes an account of sexual abuse at the summer camp.

In his book, Brown reveals that during a particular summer in the 1970s, while he was attending a summer camp on the Cape, a counselor molested him. Brown later said that he was not interested in pressing charges against his abuser, and that the reason why he decided to bring the matter to light in the first place was to convince his readers that they could overcome hardships. He admits that he had been trying to overcome the traumatizing incident for decades before he was finally able to gather the courage to come forward, allowing him to finally move on. Though Brown never mentioned the name of the camp in his memoir, it was later discovered to be Camp Good News. And shortly after



his confession, several others stepped forward to admit that they had been also been sexual abused at the same camp when they were young.

Forty three year old Charles Devita, a long-time counselor of Camp Good News, was among those who had been accused of sexual abuse. His body was found dead from a shotgun wound on Wednesday, April 6, and it seems that he had committed suicide in response to accusations of having molested a young boy years ago. Devita's mother, Sandra Devita, had warned the camp about her son when she realized that her matched the profile of a molester. However, according to her, the staff decided to ignore her concern.

The camp has denied that Sandra ever raised concern to the former Camp Good News

director, Faith Willard. In order to defend her, it announced that "Faith Willard, a 78-year-old with an MA in counseling from Columbia University, had only one phone conversation with Sandy Devita and has never met her in person, to the best of her knowledge. That one conversation was initiated by Mrs. Devita for the purpose of asking Ms. Willard to have Chuck Devita call his mother. At no time was the issue of abuse raised by Mrs. Devita to Ms. Willard."

Attorney Mitchell Garabedian is the lawyer of the victim that was allegedly molested at Camp Good News by Charles Devita. The victim attended the camp as a ten-year-old boy and after his confession of molestation, two more people came forward to reveal what shocking incidents they had experienced at the Christian camp. Garabedian announced that the counselor, who sexually assaulted those victims in the 1980s, still works there at the camp in Sandwich. Furthermore, during a FOX 25 Morning News interview, Garabedian said he received a phone call Wednesday from yet another victim who claims that another employee at Camp Good News sexually molested him when he attended the camp as a child.

It now seems that Camp Good News is nothing but bad news, and faces the threat of getting shut down.

TEACHER EVALUATIONS

Continued from page 1

Now, at least once a year every BPS high school teacher is to administer the constructive feedback survey to all of their students and an online version will be considered for the future.

Although the results are not mandated to go to the administration at this point, BPS students are now working with the superintendent and a state-wide task force to put the student feedback

REELECTION ARTICLE

Continued from page 1

Some new faces contending include Newt Gingrich, the Georgian former Speaker of the House, a veteran to politics but one who has never run for president before. It has been stated, however, that Gingrich harmed his chances at the presidency after two public divorces and years of infidelities.

Former Pennsylvania Senator Rick Santorum has also discussed running.

AFTERMATH OF THE NUCLEAR REACTOR

Continued from page 1

Experts say there have been fractional meltdowns in at least three of the six reactors, and Edano suggested that reactor number two may also be leaking. Gary Was, a nuclear engineering expert at the University of Michigan, says that the high radiation levels support the fact that there is a partial meltdown, despite the lack of visuals. Jim Walsh believes that plutonium, a secondary product created from nuclear fission, that is also a component of the fuel in reactor number three, is partly responsible for the meltdown. Edano has also agreed with Jim Walsh on this matter. Plutonium had been used in previous decades for nuclear trials above ground. Plutonium can be a health hazard if it is inhaled or ingested.

Water found in reactor number two's maintenance tunnel had remained radioactive enough to pose an immediate hazard. The water gave off 1,000 millicisievert/hr readings, suggesting a dosage of 330 times more than the average person receives in a developing country

as well as parent feedback into effect as official components in the District's formal teacher evaluation process in time for its search for a new system of accountability.

The students are currently lobbying to have the Massachusetts Board of Education approve and to implement this policy as a component among several other indicators in the official teacher evaluation process. If this passes, student feedback will become a mandatory

He is one of the candidates widely associated with the so-called "Tea Party movement" and has been noted for his ultraconservative social and fiscal policies, including his support of Creationism. Sarah Palin has long been considered (both seriously and not so seriously) as a potential candidate for the GOP. However many in her party fear that, while she could bring in a niche of the conservative vote, she could also split the party without the endorsement of the GOP. She is also not nationally supported. In

every year. This level of radiation can trigger severe vomiting and an increased risk of cancer.

The continual danger has allowed radioactive contamination to spread across vast areas of northern Japan, but Tokyo Electric said that the byproduct of plutonium would not halt the efforts to end the disaster. Radioactive iodine and cesium, other byproducts, were found in the ocean, although levels were reportedly low.

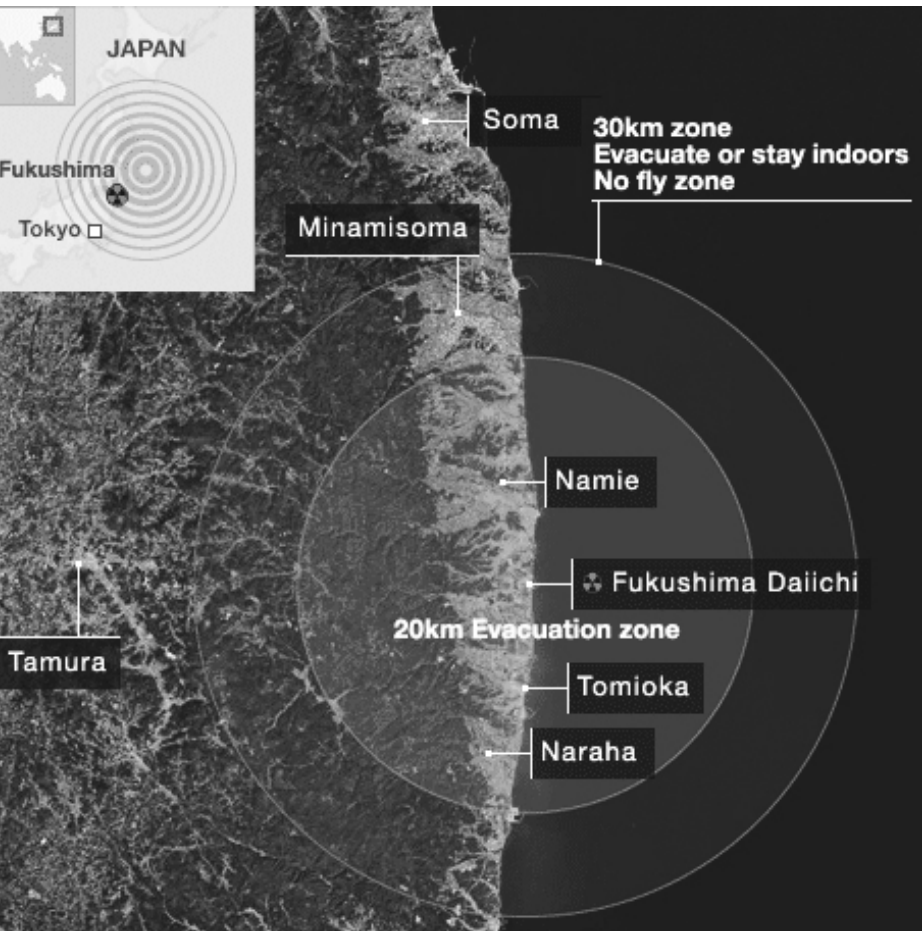
Due to radiation, authorities have banned the sale and transportation of vegetables in areas in which radiation was detected. Residents in affected areas were advised not to ingest tap water, in which high levels of contamination were found. The government also issued an evacuation order to residents living within a 12 mile radius of the plant. Tokyo Electric has taken a huge hit as an increasing number of farmers, traders and sellers demand repayment. Many wonder whether or not the government will take charge. A minister stated that nationalizing the company was a major possibility considering the legitimate concerns of the people.

constituent in all of the districts of Massachusetts and the district will be granted millions of dollars from the Race to the Top program of the Obama administration—Arne Duncan, the U.S. Secretary of Education said to students on BSAC, "We'll show you the money."

James E. McDermott, a member of the Massachusetts Board of Education in support of project, stated in his essay In Pursuit of the Ideal Teacher that, "Average teachers who mindlessly follow a

a practical sense many media outlets have also questioned her abilities as a politician, considering that her political experience is limited to a partial term as the Governor of Alaska.

On the Democratic end Barack Obama has officially announced his intention to run. He set up his base in his hometown of Chicago, which he has visited only a handful of times since moving into the White House in 2009. David Axelrod, who was Obama's chief strategist in 2008, is again his campaign senior



THE EVACUATION ZONE RADIUS OF THE FUKUSHIMA REACTOR

By MICHAEL CHEN, I
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY EDITOR

On March 20, 2011, wireless giant AT&T bought rival T-Mobile in a 39 billion dollar deal. Deutsche Telekom, the largest telecommunications firm in Europe, agreed to sell the American branch of its T-Mobile brand to AT&T. The deal is expected to take a year to be approved by United States Government's Federal Trade Commission. The buyout would make AT&T the largest mobile carrier in the US.

What does this deal mean for you, the wireless customer? AT&T and T-Mobile are the two major GSM carriers in the United States. "GSM" is short for "Global System for Mobile Communications," a wireless protocol that cellular phones use to connect to each other. Verizon and Sprint, the two other major wireless carriers in the US, use the Code Division Multiple Access (CDMA) protocol. GSM phones cannot be used on CDMA networks and vice-versa. Benefits to AT&T and T-Mobile customers include an expanded coverage area, increased 4G access and less competition in the wireless sector (which is good news for AT&T stockholders).

Many people (and companies), however, have raised concerns surrounding this controversial deal. Sprint's CEO Dan Hesse states, "I do have concerns that it would stifle innovation and too much power would be in the hands of [Verizon and AT&T]." Since this deal effectively makes Sprint

the smallest major wireless carrier in the United States, Hesse's concern is not misplaced—in fact, one of the major issues surrounding the deal involves a decrease in overall competition (thus driving rates up) and an imbalance of market power, which could mean changes in offerings by cellular phone manufacturers. Usually, phone companies like HTC, LG, Sony, Samsung and Sanyo manufacture cellular phones. Wireless carriers such as Verizon, Sprint, AT&T and T-Mobile bid

for the exclusive right to operate these phones on their wireless networks. This is the reason why, for example, the HTC Evo is offered only on Sprint, the iPhone only on AT&T (and recently Verizon) and the MyTouch only on T-Mobile. Techies fear that this huge imbalance in market power may cause the new AT&T conglomerate to have an unfair monopoly on new offerings by phone manufacturers.

AT&T, which has a history of

dropped calls, says that this deal will have a "significant impact in terms of dropped calls and network performance." This may be due to the fact that much of AT&T's coverage area is already covered by T-Mobile's antennae. If more antennae are available, especially in densely populated areas and cities with tall buildings that inhibit signal penetration, a greater number of signal transceivers can reduce the number of dropped calls and improve signal strength.

Ultimately, however, the concern of the everyday consumer is not phone availability, market power or signal penetration. In fact, according to T-Mobile's website, one of the most commonly asked questions was whether T-Mobile customers will have access to the immensely popular iPhone. Unfortunately, according to its Customer Relations division, T-Mobile will not be getting Apple's holy grail.

As reported by their website, "[T-Mobile] will continue to offer cutting-edge 4G devices like the Samsung Galaxy S 4G, as well as the new Sidekick 4G, the T-Mobile G2x and the G-Slate tablet coming later this spring."

T-Mobile will remain an independent company. This means that it will continue to offer its own plans and its own phones separate from AT&T. The two companies, however, will share infrastructure and coverage areas, allowing for an expansion in service.

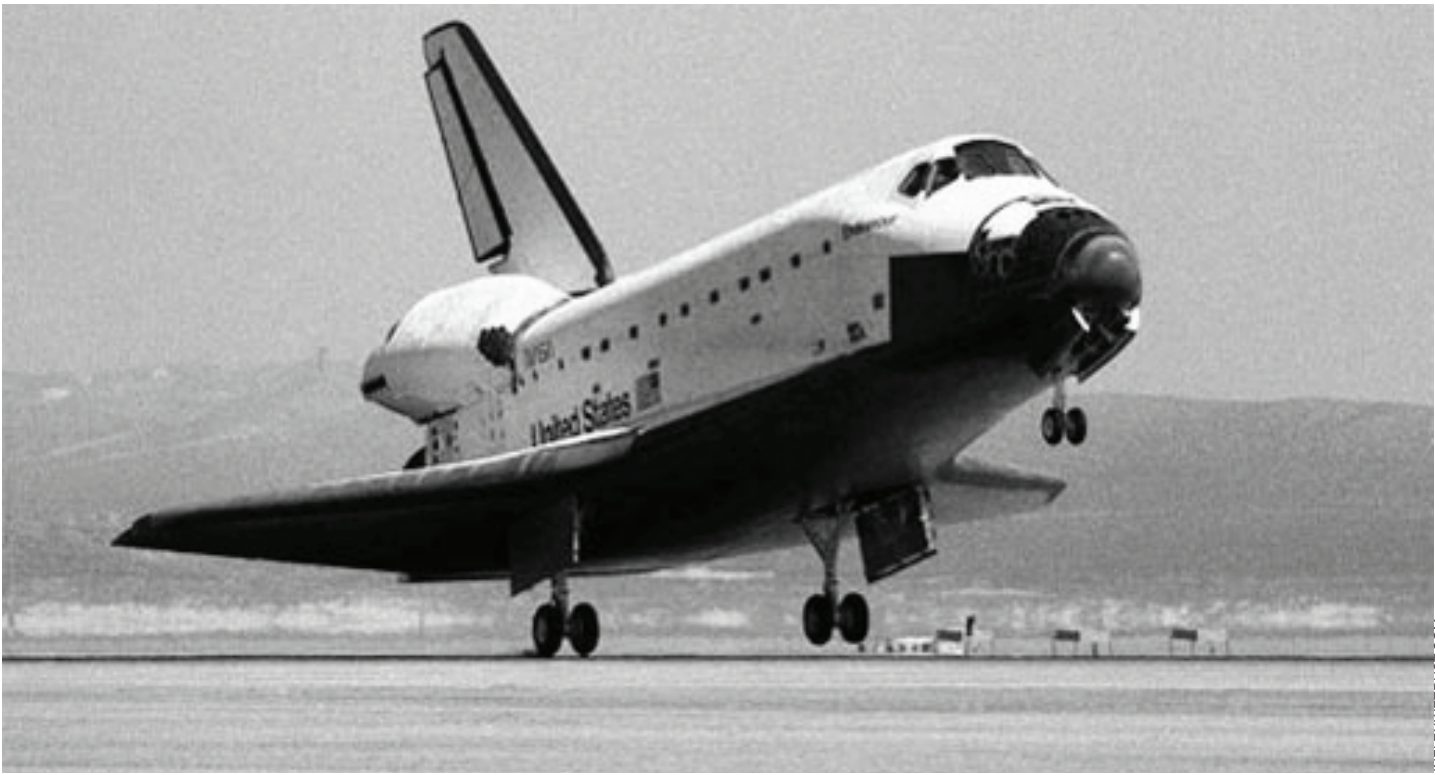
Discovery's Final Flight

By MYLES McDONOUGH, I
STAFF WRITER

After 30 years in operation and 39 missions into Earth's orbit, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) space shuttle Discovery made its final landing on March 9, 2011 at the Kennedy Space Center in Florida. Discovery

Furthermore, it has completed some of the most significant missions in the history of the Space Shuttle Program. For instance, in 1990, Discovery was used in the launch of the Hubble Space Telescope. Not only that, but it was the first shuttle in the fleet to resume flights after the 1983 Challenger explosion and the 2003 Columbia disaster. It was also the shuttle to carry the first

decided to end the Space Shuttle Program and retire the shuttles in 2010. These would be replaced with a reusable, manned Orion spacecraft to be developed under the Constellation Program. In October 2010, however, President Obama signed the NASA Authorization Act 2010 into law. This bill put an end to the Constellation Program and the development of



A \$174 BILLION RETIREMENT PACKAGE

had taken off 13 days earlier, on February 24, for its last mission to deliver a pressurized module to the United States portion of the International Space Station. Of the three remaining shuttles, the other two being Endeavour and Atlantis, the Discovery shuttle has spent the most time in space. Over the course of its lifetime, beginning with its first launch in August 1984, the shuttle has traveled more than 150 million miles in orbit and has logged more than 5,000 orbits around the Earth.

female pilot of a spacecraft, Eileen Collins, into orbit in 1995.

The final flight of the Discovery marks the beginning of the end of the NASA Space Shuttle Program. The program, which first began launching shuttles in 1981, created the world's first reusable spacecraft, which has been deployed on over 130 missions into Earth's orbit since. The 2003 destruction of the Columbia shuttle during re-entry raised concerns about the safety of the aging fleet. NASA

the Orion spacecraft, meaning that the shuttle currently does not have a planned successor. For the time being, in order to send its crew members into orbit, the US will have to make use of the Russian Soyuz spacecraft, at the price of 55 million dollars per astronaut. The remaining shuttles in the fleet will soon take their final flights as well. The Endeavour's last liftoff is scheduled for April 19, and the Atlantis is set to make the program's final launch on June 28.

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SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

PAX East Picks Up the Pace

BY ALEX YUAN, III
STAFF WRITER

Just three weeks ago, Boston saw one of the largest conventions in recent history, PAX East, or the Penny Arcade Expo East. For three days in the spring, some of the largest video game and technology developers flock to the PAX convention to show off their wares. PAX was started in 2004 by comic writers Jerry Holkins and Mike Krahulik as a small convention in Seattle that celebrated gaming culture. PAX East debuted as a separate convention in Boston last year, with over 52,000 attendees. After overcrowding the Hynes Convention Center, PAX East moved to the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center (BCEC) in South Boston starting this year. This year, PAX East sold out and drew a record 69,500 attendees, making it the largest PAX ever. It also injected more than 20 million dollars into the Boston economy. Some of the large game companies exhibiting at PAX were from the Boston area. Cambridge-based Harmonix, creator of “Rock Band” and “Guitar Hero” was there. So was Turbine Inc. from Needham, maker of “Lord of the Rings Online,” and Irrational Games in Quincy, developer of the best-selling game “BioShock.” Also showcased were several independent game developers based in Boston. Besides the Boston-based companies, there were also an incredible number of other exhibitors. Games such as “Child of Eden,” “Portal 2,” “Duke Nukem Forever,” “Mortal Kombat,” “L.A. Noire,” “The Darkness II” and “Battlefield 3” had some of the more elaborate and larger booths. Another highlight was the first public showing of the “Kingdoms of Amular: The Reckoning,” a new game from 38 Studios LLC, a



REPRESENTATION FROM COMPANIES LARGE AND SMALL. ALSO, TRAFFIC CONE HATS

Providence-based company founded by former Red Sox pitcher, Curt Schilling. All in all, over 120 companies exhibited their wares in the main hall alone. I visited PAX East, and although it lasted three days from Friday to Sunday, I only went on a Saturday. Just one day there was mind-blowing. There were so many people going to PAX that the Silver Line and Red Line were both clogged up completely. When I was actually able to get to the convention hall, I was greeted by the sound of over 20,000 attendees. Getting through the throngs of people proved to be somewhat difficult. I saw almost everything on the exhibition hall floor, watched a large gaming tournament and even tried out demos for some new games. The exhibitors of some M-rated games, however, were checking people for identification, as there is an age limit. Walking up from the main hall, I was greeted with the sight of stages with bands playing and psychedelic displays in

the background and the long lines waiting at the food court. Later, I went to a panel hosted by Rooster Teeth, a company that makes the popular internet web series “Red Vs. Blue.” They were showing off some new videos and were answering questions from the audience. This happened in a 5,000-person theater, which was packed to the brim. The noise everyone made was deafening. By the time the panel finished, the hall was about to close. Even then, with five minutes until closing, the main hall was packed with people, many still in line to try out games. It was a thoroughly exhausting, but satisfying day. In addition, the number of options for video games was staggering. I saw console video games, a whole chunk of the convention hall devoted to tabletop games, personal computer (PC) games and even classic arcade games. There were also other panels, whose topics ranged from legal issues in games to game design, to live demonstrations of games, to live podcasts. The future of PAX East is pretty clear. In two years, PAX East beat the Seattle PAX in attendance numbers with a staggering 69,500 attendees, whereas the Seattle PAX took over seven years to reach the 60,000 mark. PAX East is staying in Boston until at least 2013, and the Massachusetts Convention Center Authority is trying to negotiate a long-term contract that would keep PAX East in Boston for years to come. PAX may become the largest electronic gaming convention in the country, and it is still growing at a fast pace. Game developer executives based in Boston also hope that PAX East will bring a new industry to Boston as well. It could have an enormous impact on Boston’s economy.



PART OF THE EXHIBITION HALL, PACKED TO THE BRIM

Scitech Tidbits

>> Since its release, the iPad 2 has been in very high demand in parts of Asia, especially Hong Kong. Reports say that the iPad 2 are selling for prices up to 8,000 Chinese renminbi to over 1,000 US dollars. It currently sells in America for 500 dollars. Because of the different release dates of the popular consumer product, many people in for a quick profit have been illegally smuggling up to 20 iPad 2s at a time into Hong Kong. This represents a profit of 9,000 US dollars per trip, after accounting for airfare. Unfortunately, iPad 2s are still difficult to come by in the States; most Apple stores are sold out, and it takes approximately one month to ship from Apple’s online store due to supply issues. (Engadget)

>> A naked Floridian man shot a 65,000-dollar SWAT (Special Weapons And Tactics) robot after he threatened to commit suicide and harm anyone who tried to stop him. Armed with an AK-47 assault rifle, he burst out of

his bedroom and shot the robot four times, damaging it severely. He eventually surrendered and turned himself in with his clothes on. (Micgadget)

>> At an inventors’ convention in Geneva, Iranian Peyman Sarhadi showed off his latest invention: the Swiss army knife of boots. His “super smart boot” is capable of detecting air temperature, humidity, blood pressure, location and radiation. All this information can be beamed back to a “base camp.” The boot also includes a built-in air conditioner. Sarhadi claims that the Iranian army has already shown an interest in his boot and is currently undergoing tests. (AP)

>> After a man supposedly bought a 500-gigabyte Samsung hard drive in China, he found that he was able to watch only the last five minutes of any movie he transferred to it. After bringing it to a repair shop in Russia, technicians discovered that the “hard drive” was nowhere near 500-gigabytes—it was able to hold a mere 128-megabytes, equivalent to approximately .02 percent

of the claimed storage space. The drive was programmed to falsely display its storage as 500-gigabytes and was designed so that it would save only the last 128-gigabytes of any file saved on it. This is why only the last few minutes of any movie he transferred would be viewable. Anyone looking to buy Chinese knockoff electronics should take this as a warning. (Slashgear)

>>Reports have arisen of hackers netting a hefty profit by “jail-breaking” iPhones. Jail-breaking an iPhone allows it to be used in other countries, use non-Apple-approved applications and allows the user to make changes to the programming of the phone. One hacker, who advertises his services on Craigslist, claims that by jail-breaking several phones a week through a simple process on his computer, he can make over 50,000 dollars a year. He claims that he even jail-broke the phone of a foreign minister who wanted to be able to use the iPhone in his home country. Apple does not approve of jail-breaking; the practice, however, remains perfectly legal. (Gizmodo)

Spotlight

Stanislav Lukashov



BY QUENTIN LI, I
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

There are people that you know will go far and then there are the ones who you know will engineer a path to the stars, and Stas Lukashov is one of the latter. Stas’ accolades are far more numerous than you’d expect (and expectations are high), but accolades do not define his motivation. His greatest achievements and accomplishments aren’t simply awards on the wall, but rather the journey and excitement that has gone into them. As a friend, Stas is impeccable in his tact and flawless in his understanding. He suffers constantly from the Dunning-Kruger effect (and cannot acknowledge it). I can honestly say that Stas Lukashov is not someone you’ll meet regularly – except maybe in the halls of MIT.

Stas isn’t just praiseworthy in his accomplishments, but to me his friendship is one I will always remember with the highest regard. He’s always considerate of the feelings of others, and, above all, his humor comes from the most unexpected of places. His friendship is one that I enjoy not only because of its entertainment value, but also because of his incessant consideration of others and inquiry into the world around him. I’ve learned so much through my interaction with him and his own questions about the world – including long discussions about the various facets of the world around us. Not only does Stas provide the best of company, but he has been available for each the innumerable number of times I’ve asked him for physics help; in fact, if you have a question – he’ll help you with it.

Even simply as a friend Stas is worth more than his weight in gold, he’s also experienced in the science and engineering of the day. Special relativity isn’t too new to him, and he placed in the State Science Fair working with Lego Mindstorms. He built a “persistence of vision” LED clock at MIT, and probably spent more time at MIT than anyone else I know *before* becoming an undergrad. The questions I’ve had for him on the different workings of the world are considered, and answered – not only from personal experience but also from an engineer’s perspective. Simply hanging out with Stas leads you to understand more about the world, and I know that he’ll take it to the next level and work on some of the most interesting and difficult problems in the future.

There’s too much to say about Stas, and what he will accomplish is still very much unknown. Although science and engineering is only one of his strengths, he’s also a master in German and Russian, with an unparalleled understanding of the English language. He embodies the quintessential MIT student, and has the funniest and nerdiest jokes to go along with it. His worth to me isn’t just in his academics, for he is above all else a priceless friend and understanding individual that I’ve had the pleasure of knowing and talking to throughout my career at Boston Latin School.

FORUM

Should the U.S. be in Libya?



MICHAEL CHEN, I

By **NHU LE, III**
STAFF WRITER

On March 28, 2011, President Barack Obama addressed the nation in the speech “A Responsibility to Act.” His speech sparked debates all across the country about whether or not taking action in Libya was the correct move for America to make. Without a doubt, however, Obama made the right call politically and morally, with an eye trained for the future.

The move is politically advantageous for the United States. This is not because America has a great amount of interest or investment in Libya. Rather, it has to do with the early international response to the rebellion. In late February, the United Nations Security Council passed a resolution that put sanctions and an arms embargo on Libya. Then in March, France and England, two of our most important allies, were the earliest to support intervention via a no-fly zone. They were quickly followed by the notoriously slow Arab League. Clearly there was both international and regional support for intervention in Libya. How could the United States, a supposed world power with its supposed values, turn from a pro-democratic rebellion that its allies and many other countries support? On the other hand, if the rebellion succeeds partially because of US intervention, the country will no doubt receive a much needed reputation boost internationally and in the Middle East.

Only a naïve person would believe, however, that the countries involved in the conflict do not have ulterior motives. The US likely wants to stabilize oil prices. Europe, France especially, has been battered with refugees fleeing conflicts in Northern Africa in recent years. Preventing massacres in Libya is of European national interest. The Arab League likely supports the revolution for fear of unrest in other Middle Eastern countries. That does not change US responsibility (as part of the UN) to protect civilians from mass atrocities, like the use of human shields and massacres of civilians and protestors. So far, they are succeeding; North Atlantic Treaty Organization’s (NATO) airstrikes likely prevented a massacre by rebuffing Gaddafi forces from Benghazi, and are trying to do the same in Misrata. Whether ulterior motives are present, intervention was still the correct moral decision.

Most people against US intervention in Libya base their arguments on the events that have occurred in Iraq. However, they ignore many key differences between Iraq and Libya: who, why and how. America entered Iraq to quell terrorism and seize nuclear weapons supposedly in Iraq. Though Bush added a lot of “liberation” rhetoric to his speeches, there was no mass civilian rebellion in Iraq. In Libya’s case, not only is there an actual rebellion, but also rebel leaders went on record seeking western intervention. While the US fought Iraq alone, there is abundant international support for the Libyan rebellion. There is so much, in fact, that the US is only taking a supporting role in NATO’s actions in Libya. There are currently no ground soldiers in Libya, and there likely will never be any because there is no support for it. If all these key facts about the two conflicts are different, it can not be presumed that Libya will develop like Iraq. We are not repeating our mistakes at all.

If one were to consider the future, one should instead ponder how Libya’s future will affect other Middle Eastern countries contemplating revolution. As the first country in the recent conflicts for reform that western powers are involved in, it will be closely scrutinized, for whether it is an example of failure or success. The rebels are without question ill-equipped, not well-trained and lack organized leadership. Then again, what revolution ever is? All the more this is the reason western powers should lend a hand. Libya may not be the most important country for the US, but its neighbors are.

There may still be many questions about the future course of actions in Libya, but one fact remains: for the sake of its politics, morals and future interests in the region, the US had to intervene.

By **JAKE ZHENG, III**
STAFF WRITER

On February 15, demonstrators in Libya gathered to protest the nearly 41-year rule of Muammar Gaddafi. What was at first a peaceful demonstration quickly grew into a civil war with casualties mounting on both sides. The rebels, a “ragtag” band of civilians, face overwhelming odds against the pro-Gaddafi forces who are mostly mercenaries hired from neighboring countries. The rebels are heavily reliant on airstrikes from France, Britain and the United States. In the midst of two wars in the Middle East and with economic woes back home, can the United States afford this war?

From the beginning, the conflict in Libya has had a very vague purpose. Hoping to prevent civilian casualties, the United Nations passed a resolution declaring Libyan airspace a “no-fly zone” in order to prevent any Libyan aircraft from bombing their own citizens. France, Britain and the United States subsequently began a bombing campaign to neutralize airports and air defenses on the ground, thus crippling Gaddafi’s air force. What end goal, however, is the United States trying to achieve? Obama seems to be straddling a fine line in the sand. Although he approves of the airstrikes against Gaddafi, he isn’t willing to take full military action against Libya. He also isn’t willing to stand by and allow the massacre of civilians to occur. So if Obama isn’t willing to topple Gaddafi’s regime or suppress the rebellion, then what are we trying to accomplish in Libya?

For many of those who remember the beginning of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, the current conflict in Libya might seem strikingly familiar. Like Operation Iraqi Freedom in Iraq, Operation Odyssey Dawn in Libya began with a brief, yet brutal bombing campaign. Like Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan, Odyssey Dawn is training resistance movements to topple the autocratic regime. George Santayana, a graduate of Boston Latin School, once famously quoted, “If we don’t learn from history, we are doomed to repeat it.” Perhaps if the United States learned from its mistakes in Iraq and Afghanistan, we wouldn’t be involved in the current conflict in Libya. At least in the Middle East, we had a clear mission of removing two dangerous leaders and abolishing a safe haven for terrorists, but in Libya, our only objective is as vague as “preventing civilian casualties.” Not only do we lack any plan of fulfilling that mission, but we also seem to be overlooking that the rebels need protecting, not encouragement.

The United States is still recovering from its worst economic crisis since the Great Depression. Not only have we lost faith in our economy, but we also still owe a massive debt to China and are paying for two wars in the Middle East. Now that we’re starting our third war, many Americans are asking the same question: how can we pay for all of this? Our economy isn’t growing fast enough to support our military expenditure (the largest in the world), and public services like education and healthcare aren’t receiving the funds that they need. Many states are struggling with debt as more and more jobs are outsourced to nations overseas. Whatever political or military goals we are trying to achieve in Libya, the fact still remains that we neither have the money nor the proper motive to support another war.

Obama’s involvement in Libya is a noble effort to prevent conflict in North Africa. We must not forget, however, the troubles we’ve had at home. The United States is still recovering from a recession and has no means of paying for yet another war. Libya is currently of no importance to Americans. It doesn’t harbor al-Qaeda, have nuclear weapons or have any oil deals with the United States (yet). Although Obama has good intentions in standing up for the Libyan people, we should stop meddling in other nation’s politics. If Libya wants to become a new nation, its people must fight for their own freedom.

Forum Question

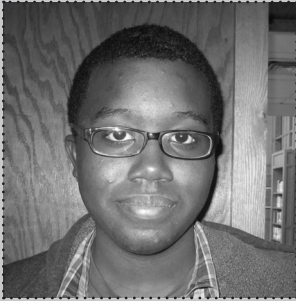
Should the U.S. be in Libya?



No, we should have learned our lesson.
—Kevin Yetman, I



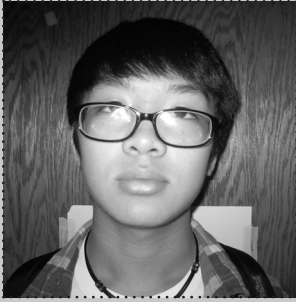
No, because we already have strained resources and there is a lot of work we need to do in the US. Also, they may be connected to Al-Qaeda.
—Lily Liu-Krason, II



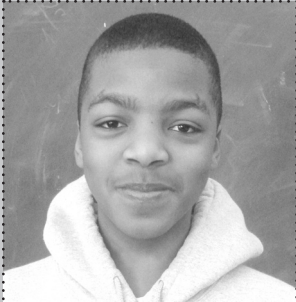
No, because the last thing we need is another “save them” mission. Look at how Iraq turned out.
—Freddy Lane, III



We shouldn’t because we would be overstepping and we really don’t have the resources for a third war.
—Audrey Malite, IV



No, because we are already in an economical crisis. We also have troops in Iraq, which would put us in greater debt.
—Joshua Tran, V



Yes, because if they weren’t in Libya, gas prices in the US would probably shoot up as supplies would be limited.
—David Hospedares, VI

FORUM

Belarus: Libya 2.0?

BY JANE CHUPRIN, III
STAFF WRITER

Aleksandr Lukashenka has been governing Belarus since he was democratically elected in 1994. By 1997, however, the Bush administration of the United States recognized him as “The Last Dictator of Europe.” Lukashenka now rules over Belarus, an independent, European nation that is surrounded by Russia, Ukraine and Poland. After the collapse of the Soviet Union, Belarus fell into a post-communist dictatorship. Lukashenka denies dictatorship by citing that he has been elected and re-elected, though the legitimacy of the elections is unlikely. Pro-democrats in Belarus (during 1991-1994) were strong nationalists. They began learning as well as teaching the Belarusian language, although most of the population at that time spoke Russian. This was the first wave of nationalism that had rippled in Belarus, only to be crushed by Lukashenka, who re-established Russian as the official language of Belarus in order to maintain a healthy friendship with Russia. In the eyes of Belarusians, he was seen as a traitor; no one, however, rose to action against him.

But who would?

Lukashenka is infamous for political murders and criminal internal workings. The public fears his power, which, ironi-

cally, he only has because of the "people." The people of Belarus read countless news articles which all praise Lukashenka, and it is common knowledge among citizens that all of this is controlled by Lukashenka himself, yet the people still fail to act!

The internet played a big role in spreading revolutionary ideas in Egypt and Libya. Even though citizens in Belarus have the same access to internet, they are too afraid to revolt online. The government monitors all internet action of their citizens; this includes email, Facebook and even Skype. This is just to ensure that nothing negative is said against Lukashenka or their government, let alone spreading revolutionary ideas.

Most recently, with the liberal uprisings in Egypt, it was rumored that a crowd in Belarus stepped out to oppose Lukashenka. Unfortunately, they were either caught or killed; some 600 were arrested and tortured by being sent out into below-freezing temperatures, without clothes, for 40 minutes. Keep in mind, winter temperatures in Belarus are typically -5°F. Why has this story not been made more public? Of course, there are no detailed or exact accounts, for Lukashenka holds power over journalism and quite frankly withholds freedom of speech in the country. There is no doubt that he let these rumors slip to counteract nationalism with fear.

In Belarus, only a few intellectuals know of the ideals of democracy, for democratic ideas are not taught in public schools and have not been taught since the Soviet Union took power. How can the people act when they have not yet fully realized what is at stake for them? Those who do understand democracy cannot do anything because they are too afraid.

Not only do the people of Belarus quietly fear their leader, but they also fear their powerful neighbor, Russia. Russia is a major powerhouse nation and is a threat to little Belarus. Russia has a sphere of influence over Belarus because the country has become quite dependent on its powerful neighbor. Russia has so much power over Belarus that Belarus almost went without heat during their harsh winters due to bargaining issues with Russia. With no heat, how would the people survive the harsh winters? Luckily for Belarus, Lukashenka stepped in and resolved the issue with Russia. So was this a heroic move for Lukashenka? No. Russia actually pays him an estimated four to five billion dollars per year as a “donation.”

Will anyone help the people of Belarus revolt just as some have in Libya? The western countries, such as the United States, have made it clear that they have no intentions of helping Belarusian oppression if Russia decides to take over. Since

Russian nostalgic imperialists want Belarus to become a part of Russia as it was in Soviet times, befriending the dictator might be the first step in their reacquisition. So if the little guys, the people of Belarus, were to stand up to Lukashenka, they would also have to fight Russia. A positive outcome does not seem very likely in this case.

Belarus is still considered democratic, and yes, they do hold elections. For example, five candidates ran against Lukashenka in the most recent election. As a matter of fact, all five were thrown into jail before the votes were counted, and Lukashenka won the election with 90 percent of the vote. Ridiculous. Were the streets crowded and were people cheering for Lukashenka’s inauguration? Nope. The police forbade people to come out to “celebrate” because they actually feared someone was going to plant a bomb to assassinate their dictator.

Meanwhile, Lukashenka has been seen with his son. Actually, more like illegitimate son that he had with his mistress. Is it because he is a loving and caring father? More like he committed adultery and now uses his own son as a “shield” so that no one tries to throw an explosive at him. Just wait until his son grows up, and he grows old; will he try to pass his power onto his son? That did not go too well for Libya.

Constitutionally Burning Qurans

BY ELEANOR HARTE, I
STAFF WRITER

You may have heard of a man called Pastor Terry Jones. If you have not, you have probably heard of what he tried to do last fall. In September 2010, Terry Jones, the pastor from a Christian Church, announced in Florida that he was planning on burning 200 copies of the Quran on the ninth anniversary of the September 11 attacks— a date he declared to be "International Burn a Quran Day." The Quran is the sacred book of the Islamic religion, akin to the Bible for Christians and the Torah for Jews. Pastor Jones threatened to burn the Qurans at least partly in response to the controversy late last summer about the possibility of an Islamic community center, to be called Park51, being built near the Ground Zero site in New York City. The September 11 attacks resulted in a great mixture of negative emotions, but it still does not mean that Jones should burn the Quran as an act of retribution. It is still morally wrong for him to burn something so sacred, especially since he is a Pastor. Jones said that his goal was to expose "an element of Islam that is very dangerous and

very radical." Both the potential community center and Jones' declaration caused enormous controversy. Shortly before September 11, however, Pastor Jones canceled the Quran burning, and said that his church would "never burn a Quran."

On March 20 of this year, however, he and members of his church did just that. Not only did Jones go back on his word, but his Quran burning in Florida has caused an uproar in Afghanistan, where five straight days of protests have killed at least 22 people and have left many more injured. Given that many of the headlines of the major newspapers today are about the revolutions in the Middle East, it seems that Jones has poured oil over the fire. He has also caused further unnecessary chaos in other countries in the Middle East. Afghans are furious with what Jones has done, calling it "an un-Islamic act," that they "cannot accept." Diplomats in Afghanistan suggest that these protests are in response to the remarks made by the country's president Hamid Karzai, on March 31, calling for the arrest of Pastor Jones and condemning his actions. Some Afghan officials say that the protests can be attributed to more than just Jones' Quran

burning, but no one knows for sure.

What people do know is that Pastor Jones burnt a Quran just a few weeks ago, and apparently he plans to continue with his anti-Islamic actions by holding a trial for the Islamic prophet Muhammad for "crimes against humanity." It is now a few months after the September 11 anniversary, and although there is still much controversy about Park51, it is now no longer the subject of the headlines in the newspaper. So why does he still insist on burning more Qurans? It is quickly becoming clear that Pastor Jones' activities are causing enormous amounts of damage. Even President Obama has spoken out against what Pastor Jones is doing, calling it "bigotry," while also calling for an end to the violent protests.

But there is no clear solution to this problem. In March, when the Supreme Court ruled on a case regarding the Westboro Baptist Church picketing at military funerals, the judges said that the church, no matter what the members said, was "entitled to 'special protection' under the First Amendment and that protection cannot be overcome by a jury finding that the picketing was outrageous." Unfortunately, the

same logic can be applied to Jones' Quran burning; though it is awful, Jones is legally allowed to do it. The best course of action in this case seems to be calling Jones out on his actions and condemning them as Afghanistan's President Karzai did. The problem is that there is no way to make what Jones is doing illegal; it is defined as symbolic speech, an action that is intended to convey a political message. Symbolic speech is protected by the First Amendment, which in most cases is advantageous, but in this case is simply a roadblock to stopping Jones.

While the solution to stopping Jones will not be prosecution because of his free speech rights, there must be another way to stop him before he goes too far. If Jones continues with his plan to hold a "trial" against Muhammad, where will he stop? Certainly he will continue after that trial. Will he burn another Quran? That should not be ruled out as a possibility. Will he turn his attacks on Muslims physically? No one knows for sure, but it is crucial that he be stopped. He cannot be allowed to continue in this manner, or soon the lives of far more than those 22 protestors could be at risk.

Big Red Chews Up Trains' Seats

BY ANITA WO, III
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

What people want most from transportation is to get from point A to point B as quickly as possible; right after speed comes people’s desire for comfort. After a long and tiresome day, all a person wants is to be able to go home quickly and comfortably on the train. The last thing they want is to suddenly hear the speakers announce, “Attention passengers, the next red line train to [insert name of destination] will be the high-capacity train, ‘Big Red.’”

These days, people are always on the go and always in a hurry to get from one place to another. Their choice of transportation is important since delays can become hindrances in their tight

schedule. Over the years, more and more people have started to take the MBTA. With the increasing gas prices, it would be the smartest choice because it saves money. The MBTA reports that the average number of weekday passengers has increased about 5.5 percent since April 2008 compared to April of last year. With the growth of public transportation usage, the MBTA's solution is the “Big Red.” This high-capacity-carrying car is available during rush hour to increase the number of passengers on the train. With the removal of almost all seats, it is said to carry 10 percent more (about 27 more passengers) per car. Keeping in mind the different types of people, there are still seats available on the first and last cars, but in the rest, the passengers must rely only on handrails. Therefore, the “Big Red” can carry more

people and get them to their destination in a quicker and more efficient way.

Though the demand for a greater carrying capacity has been met with the “Big Red,” the question still remains whether it really suits the passengers’ needs. Fanny Lin (I), a BLS student who has taken this type of train car says, “I don’t mind standing, however, it felt uncomfortable especially when people tried to crowd onto the train despite there being no space.” To accommodate more people on rides is a good idea, and with the “Big Red” this is possible. The MBTA, however, has completely disregarded the comfort level of their riders. To Lilian Whelan (III), a fellow MBTA rider, it can even be claustrophobic. Describing her experience with the car, Whelan states, “[It] feels like I can’t move or breathe or

function properly.”

When the commute is especially long, standing can be difficult for the elderly, disabled or people who are just tired. Tony Wo, who is usually tired from work at the end of the day, says, “People are tired mentally and physically after they finish work. They should add more seats for the comfort and convenience of these people. I also don’t think it is worth it to pay every time I ride the T to not be able to sit.” These commuters are also paying two dollars per ride for not getting the service they should receive. The MBTA works hard to improve people’s daily commute and the “Big Red” is an example of how they cannot satisfy their wants as well as those of the passengers. Efficiency should not be improved at the cost of better service.

FORUM

Study Abroad Cancelled

BY MABEL LEE, I
FORUM EDITOR

A top study abroad program has always been a major asset to a university’s appeal to its students. About 250,000 students go on study abroad programs each year. With the recent

sity will now fly back about 200 of their students in Tokyo because of the recent earthquake. Cornell University relocated many of its students studying abroad in New Zealand to safer areas. For many people, it is a huge disappointment and a great upset to be pulled from the country you wished to spend a semester

study abroad experience because she would not be able to graduate if she did not continue with the program. If she does go on the study abroad program, then she would have a complete study abroad experience, but the radiation in Japan would be detrimental to her health. If she does not go on the program, however, she forfeits her credits that she would have earned if she went to Japan. How can students like this be held accountable for disasters and social turmoil that they have no control over? In a situation such as this, the university and the program at which she hopes to study abroad through should be more understanding and allow her to make up her credits so that she can graduate on time.

Students should be allowed to withdraw from a study abroad program if there are risks involved with them traveling to the host country and they should be given the option to make up the credits they would have earned if they did travel abroad. They should not be penalized for major political and social issues that are out of their control. Students should be given the experience that they wished for and be allowed the opportunity to experience a new culture firsthand. Furthermore, if they had to be evacuated from their host country, the college or university should figure out a way for them to fulfill their graduation requirements. Their graduation from college should not be hindered by another country’s political turmoil. Students should have alternatives to make up the credits if they do decide to withdraw. It gives more entitlement to the students as they decide on how to continue their post-secondary education.



WE HAVE LIFTOFF! ...OR NOT

series of tumultuous events occurring all around the world, however, many universities have either evacuated students from countries where it is considered “dangerous,” or relocated students to other areas. This precaution seems like it would only benefit the students, but it poses a threat for many students who are currently on their study abroad programs and now forces many students to reconsider where they plan to go to study abroad.

When the revolutions were happening in Egypt, New York University evacuated about 50 of their students and staff in that area. Temple Univer-

or year in. A great study abroad experience is fully achieved if an individual lives in the country and completely immerses himself/herself in the language and culture. To be pulled out from the program mid-way causes a disruption in their studies. Although it would be terrible for students to remain in a country where it is considered unsafe for them, there should be a compromise. There should not be a choice between safety and education, but an option that provides safer education.

Celia Yu, one of the students at Hamilton College, states that she still plans to travel to Japan as a part of her

Rejection Objections

BY MIKE SAHAGIAN, I
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

You have probably seen many seniors either jumping for joy or being too depressed to even talk these past few weeks. The end of March and start of April marks the end of the college admissions process. To all you juniors out there, listen up. Next year, you will be entering a war zone of GPA and SAT scores, a battleground where extracurricular activities and teacher recommendations face off. As a senior having just completed the college admission cycle, I speak from experience when I say that the process is torturous, unfair and unexpected.

After spending months perfecting applications and going through interview after interview, you read headlines like “Harvard Accepts Record Low 6.2 Percent of Applicants to the Class of 2015” and “Top Schools see Record Applications for 2015” that make your stomach start to churn. Not only are the schools getting more selective, but the applicant pools are also getting larger and even more competitive. There used to be a time when having a certain GPA could guarantee you admission to a ‘safety school,’ but those days have come and gone. Take Northeastern for instance; it would not be a stretch to say that Northeastern was probably the biggest college upset this year. Many students who were considered ‘likely’ to get in based on the assessment of their guidance counselors and by the scattergrams on the Naviance reports were flat out rejected. Nowadays,

not only do you need stellar grades and SAT scores, but also an impressive portfolio of extracurricular activities that you actually invest a significant amount of time in.

But, in the end, that’s not enough. I thought that I had everything it took to gain admission into at least one highly selective school, but apparently I did not. With a 1940 on the SATs, I knew that I was going to have some trouble getting into those extremely competitive schools, but I made it known that standardized testing wasn’t my forte. I thought that my GPA – being higher than a 4.0, which I worked like hell to obtain – and extracurricular activities – over 1000 hours of community service both in and out of school – would make up for that. I was flat out rejected from Brown (my dream school), Dartmouth, Georgetown, Stanford, Swarthmore and Yale.

So what does that mean? I remember opening the first rejection letter from Swarthmore – actually, my mom opened it up because I was on the Facing DC trip and she called me – and the first thing that went through my mind was, how could I have been rejected? I had worked so hard and it just did not seem to pay off. Was I not good enough? Could I have worked harder or gotten better scores? After that, I got five more rejection letters, one after the other and by the time I opened the very last one from Brown, I was numb to the disappointment.

My story, however, does not mean that there is no hope for you in the process. If you’re reading this and are feeling discouraged about applying to

college, don’t be! But be wary. I want you to know that, in the end, you honestly never know what the final decision is going to be until you open that letter or click that link. Although I got rejected from those schools, I still got into some amazing places and I will be attending Boston College next year. It may not have been my dream, but I’m happy with the outcome. If it was meant to happen, then I’m glad that it did.

A wise teacher told me something that I think should be passed onto everyone, but to juniors in particular: When you open that rejection letter, remember that the school isn’t rejecting you, but rather they are rejecting your résumé—the piece of paper that you put in front of them to judge and scrutinize. There may have been another kid with the same SAT scores and GPA as you, but who just had more extracurricular activities than you, or was more passionate about something. But they did not reject you! The school never actually met you. They may like to think that they got a chance to really know you, but you can’t possibly learn everything about a person from a piece of paper or a set of numbers. Chances are, down the road, a bunch of schools are going to realize that they made the wrong decisions in who they decided to accept, as kids either transfer under the pressure or drop out. No matter where you end up for college, be it Harvard University or a school in the Middle-Of-Nowhere, Iowa, it’s not the college that shapes the experience, but rather what you make of the situation and resources available to you.

The Omnipotent She-Wolf

Dear Omnipotent She-Wolf,
I’m having a lot of trouble figuring out which college to go to next year. I’ve received a few offers, and I’ve narrowed it down to two colleges. However, College A doesn’t offer the major I’m interested in—Underwater Basket Weaving—and I’m absolutely sure that that’s what I want to pursue as a career. On the other hand, College B offers this major but is only giving me a 99 cent scholarship. And instead of letting me buy anything I want with that scholarship (books, clothes, etc.) they’re forcing me to use that 99 cent scholarship for food at McDonald’s! They said that it was money toward food expenses, but I don’t think it really counts if you have to spend it at a specific place. I’m really torn and don’t know what to do! Help me, Omnipotent She-Wolf!
--The Options R No-good

Dear TORN,
That sounds like a terribly tough decision. Colleges are so frustrating nowadays! It’s tough enough to get into them, and then once you do, it’s rare to find one that gives you enough money and also offers what you want to study. I feel you, TORN, I feel you. But I would say that you have to go with College B. If underwater basket weaving is your calling, there’s no getting around that, and the only way to live your life to the fullest is to seize the opportunity with which you have been presented! And as for the massive amount of debt that you will accrue from attending a college that only gives you 99 cents a year, you will probably have to immediately go into teaching intensive underwater basket weaving classes fifteen hours a day for the rest of your life, but it sounds like it’s worth it. So go for it! And I can think of a great use for that 99 cent scholarship. Why don’t you buy yourself a nice McDonald’s apple pie? It actually should last you a while, as it probably has more calories than you are supposed to consume in a week!

Dear Omnipotent She-Wolf,
I’ve heard that our government might be shutting down in a few days. If this is true, what is going to happen to all of us? It’ll be pure chaos. Without any government, there will be no laws, and without any laws, no one will be safe! There will be looting and violence and PEOPLE WILL START EATING EACH OTHER! And because the government isn’t active, they won’t be able to find a solution to their problems and a way to start up again, so they’ll have to be shut down forever! Essentially, WE’RE STARING THE APOCALYPSE IN THE FACE!!!! WHY AM I THE ONLY ONE HYPERVENTILATING????
--FREAKING OUT

Dear Freaking Out,
First of all, take a deep breath and let it out. Everything will be fine (sort of)! When the government shuts down, the “essential” parts of the government continue to run, so policeman and law courts and fireman and such are still working! Therefore, laws will still be enforced and you will not die as a result of a crazy naked person covered in feathers driving a car into your house, I swear. Unfortunately, I am not very clear on how the government will be able to start up again, so we may indeed have a problem in that arena...

Limitless Sends Questionable Message

By **LUKE MCKINNON, I**
SPORTS EDITOR

The movie *Limitless*, despite what you might have thought, were told, or assumed, is not a story about Bradley Cooper’s drug addiction problems and glorious recovery. It is actually a manifesto, a recommendation on how to live your life. When watching a movie like this, it is appropriate to think deeply and philosophize about how the film pertains to you. Even though not all of you have seen it yet, please join me in some visualizing: Bradley plays the protagonist, the single man against terrible forces of both moral and legal precedence. His girlfriend has just left him, and he is a broke writer who cannot even write the first page of his own book. So in order to mitigate these terrible circumstances, Bradley Cooper takes a drug that allows him to unleash the full extent of his brainpower.

Limitless can (and probably will, by many) be interpreted as a film that promotes enhanced performance through drug usage. One can only do so much in one’s natural shell and restricted self, but by using the pill that Cooper takes in the movie, characters are able to act and think far better than their peers. However, I believe that at the most simplistic level, this movie conveys the message that we can “beat the system” if we focus hard enough and look for alternative ways to

reach our goals. But while the film does indeed make some very good points, I am sure that many will ignore these points and still make arguments claiming that *Limitless* just promotes drug usage. All I have to say to these people is

encourage you to do so. It tells the story After Cooper starts taking drugs, he goes from some no-name-loser to millionaire. And this is no epic, drawn-out life story, either. We are talking about a man taking drugs for a few weeks and becoming

seem to be what enables and guarantees that focus and capability. So does this movie promote drug usage? Does it argue that if you got high everyday and then went about your work, you would do much better quality work?

Not necessarily. The important thing for the viewer to get out of this movie is not the fact that the character takes drugs, but what the specific effect of those drugs is: to enable the drug-taker to reach their fullest potential, a goal that is important but can certainly be reached in ways other than drug use. The other important question to ask yourself about this must-see blockbuster is this: would you take that drug? If you had one shot—or one opportunity

to seize everything you have ever wanted, would you take it or let it slip? Those are the personal questions the film asks, the questions that carry over into your real life. *Limitless* is asking you: are using your brain to its fullest potential? Why not?



BRADLEY COOPER IS UNLIMITED IN LIMITLESS

this: Wrong! You clearly did not watch *Limitless* very carefully. Do not judge a movie by its core premise, or else you will miss what makes it special. If you are still halfway through this article and have not considered seeing this movie, I highly

a complete success. Therefore, I have to say that the message of the movie is that people are capable of doing absolutely amazing things, if they are focused enough, and if they use their brain to its greatest capacity. The twist is that drugs

Black Friday

By **BARBARA CARVALHO, I**
ASSISTANT A&E EDITOR

A black screen fades out to an animated school desk, on it, a calendar. We eagerly watch as the pages turn, getting closer and closer to the best day of the week—Friday. It’s 7 am on this glorious day and Youtube sensation Rebecca Black has just woken up, oddly with her make up in tact, and has to get fresh, go downstairs, have her cereal, and get ready for school. As part of this morning routine any normal 8th grader would run out to catch the school bus, but not Rebecca. She is saved just in time by her classmates who roll up in what seems to be a Mercedes convertible. Some are kickin’ in the front seat, others sittin’ in the back seat, and following some difficult decision making, Rebecca takes the only seat left.

Now, you might be asking yourself, who is this Rebecca Black? And since when is the driving age thirteen? Well, it’s not, and this little rule-breaker is Youtube’s newest sensation thanks to her song, “Friday”. Late last year, when Mrs. Black paid Ark Music Factory to produce her daughter’s music video, neither she nor Rebecca had any idea of the fame that it would bring. It all started when one of Rebecca’s classmates, another client of Ark Music Factory, told her about the company. Four thousand dollars later, her song “Friday” was born. Today, Rebecca’s video has almost 90

million hits and “Friday” is number 71 on iTunes.

But what’s all the buzz about? Is the song even good? Well, a lot of people have answered that last question with a very definitive ‘no.’ Comments left on her video have surpassed criticism, with some of the worst ones telling Rebecca to acquire an eating disorder and even end her own life. All of this controversy has led to appearances by Rebecca on Good Morning America and Ryan Seacrest’s very popular radio

better option. “The other song was about adult love” she says, “I haven’t experienced that yet.” When asked her opinion on the comments she has received, Rebecca says she knows she’s not the best singer, and the comments initially upset her, but she has learned to not let it get to her. As for all of the money that “Friday” has made, Rebecca said she plans to donate part of the proceeds to school arts programs and relief efforts in Japan. As one final, and oh so adorable, touch to the interview, Rebecca mentioned that she is a huge Be-

a Grammy anytime soon, but it is comedic gold. The writers may have lost all sense of grammar by the end of the song, but I believe it has educational value. After all, who doesn’t have trouble remembering the order in which the days of the week go? Thanks to Rebecca I will never forget that if yesterday was Thursday, today is Friday, tomorrow is Saturday, and Sunday comes afterward. Although, I must say, as much as I enjoyed picking up some sweet dance moves from the girls sitting in the back, it worries me that they are

standing up in a car that’s being driven by a fourteen year old on the highway. Also alarming is the appearance by a thirty year old “rapper” towards the end of the song...I don’t know what he is doing pulling up to a school bus, but when he talks about having fun I hope he plans on being surrounded by an appropriately-aged group. But all in all, I will proudly say I adore “Friday.” As bad as it may be, it is dangerously catchy, and keeps you singing along long after the weekend is over. All of Rebecca’s friends

seem to have



REBECCA BLACK SEES HER ‘FRANS’

show. Musical phenomenon Lady Gaga even defended Rebecca, calling her a genius. These interviews have shed a lot of light on how “Friday” came to be and how Rebecca has been dealing with all of this attention. Although many make fun of the song’s ridiculous lyrics, Rebecca explains that not only did she not write it, it was the

lieber, and would love to record a duet with the young artist someday. I guess this only makes sense, considering most of the boys in her video sport Justin’s famous ‘do.

Well, I don’t know if I would go as far as to call Rebecca a genius, but I think death threats are a little much. Sure, “Friday” might not be winning

mastered the fist pump, winning them major points in my book. Love it or hate it, it has become the theme song for everyone’s favorite day of the week. And for anyone out there who believes “Friday” is the worst song they have ever heard, I suggest you listen to Jenna Rose’s “My Jeans.”

A & E

The Night(mare) of Our Lives

By **ANDREW FAVORITO, I**
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

You walk through the senior hallway and realize that everyone is talking about it. Somehow, every conversation you start ends with something related to it. You say you hate talking about it, but in reality you're dying to know who's taking whom. What has caused all of this hoopla and unnecessary stress? Oh wait, it's prom.



In reality, prom is simply a glorified school dance, spiffed up by a hefty ticket price, black-tie dress code and chicken fingers. Yet it becomes the *raison d'être* for every socially conscious senior. Accompanying all of the stress automatically included in prom is the biggest issue of all - what are you going to wear?

The search for a prom dress has been described to me as “stressful,” “impossible” and “the bane of my existence.” Luckily, as a part of the tuxedo-wearing gender shields me from ever having to put myself through this, but that factor hasn't stopped me from accompanying enough of my friends and witnessing this struggle first-hand. At the end of

each shopping ordeal, however, I am left pondering one question: why does a simple task take trips to multiple stores, leaving the shopper 99.9% of the time empty handed, dissatisfied and pissed off? I've boiled it down to the bare essence, realizing that it's because no one knows what they actually want. It's sick. It's absurd. It's comparable to one of the circles in Dante's *Inferno*. It's a vicious second-guessing cycle that ultimately needs to end.

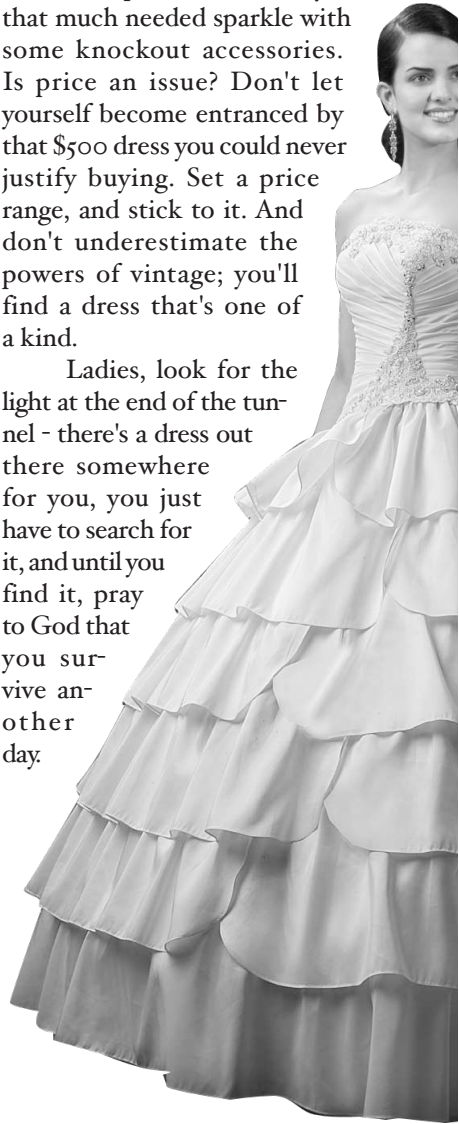
My friend Laura said to me today, “I'm a body lover, not a body hater,” and that's exactly the mentality you need to possess. Find out what your best features are, and make sure your dress emphasizes them to their fullest extent. So you have a butt that would make Nicki Minaj jealous and would require “Miss New Booty” as background music? Then show it off in something tight that will accentuate, not flatten it. Have some arms comparable to Michelle Obama's? Dare to go strapless - you'll be the envy of everyone. Think you have nothing special to offer? Think again. Just because you don't have Gisele Bundchen abs doesn't mean you need to wear a caftan - they invented Spanx for a reason. So what if your thighs are a little on the larger side? Utilize the magical disappearing powers of an empire waistline, and they won't even be noticeable.

Other helpful hints? Know what colors you look good in. Just because you love a dress that's mint green doesn't mean it'll look good on you. Also, pick one part on your body that you want to show off, not multiple. Want to show a little cleavage? Then skip the thigh-high slit on the skirt. Too much skin is never acceptable, especially when you're trying

to look classier than everyone else.

Don't even attempt cut-outs anywhere on your dress. You did not get mauled by Wolverine on the way to the Copley Plaza. Think you want a lot of glitz? Don't do a dress that's full-out sequins. That's tacky. Add that much needed sparkle with some knockout accessories. Is price an issue? Don't let yourself become entranced by that \$500 dress you could never justify buying. Set a price range, and stick to it. And don't underestimate the powers of vintage; you'll find a dress that's one of a kind.

Ladies, look for the light at the end of the tunnel - there's a dress out there somewhere for you, you just have to search for it, and until you find it, pray to God that you survive another day.



Insidious Falls Flat

By **VANESSA JARNES, II**
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

If you are thinking about or planning on seeing *Insidious*, my advice would be not to. Those who are hoping this movie is going to be up to par with director James Wan's *Paranormal Activity* or *Saw* are going to be bitterly disappointed when they arrive in the theaters just to find the “scary” movie they paid eleven dollars to see is a waste of 102 minutes. Although there may be a couple of scenes in the movie that make the viewer jump slightly in their chair, the majority of the



movie after the first little while tries so unnecessarily hard to spook and fails that I even found myself laughing at many of the parts that were supposed to be scary. Between the ridiculous plot, dissatisfactory artistic effects (although I'll admit on an 800 grand budget it wasn't too bad), and poor character development, *Insidious* overall was truly a disappointment of a movie.

The movie starts off following a family that just moved into a new house and is unpacking when some of their items get misplaced on their own. This essentially gives the misleading effect on the viewer that the movie will be about a haunted house of some sort. One of the young boys in the family, Dalton, falls into a nonresponsive “coma” - or so the parents believe at least - for months. Later in the movie when the parents have a specialist comes to the house and she reveals that it is, in fact, the boy that is haunted and not the house, the scene is supposed to be full of suspense and anxiety. Unfortunately, it could not have been less of a shocker because from the very beginning of the movie the only haunting things in the house were surrounding Dalton after he fell into his half-dead half-alive state.

Although the first half of the movie was decently scary and had the most jumps, the second half of the movie became overkill quickly. Some of the scenes were so bizarre and overly nonsensical that it completely took the fear

out of the movie and became nearly comedic at a few points, such as when the father goes to rescue Dalton from the main demon that has him imprisoned and the demon is painting marionettes in his workroom while listening to eerie music. The realm that the boy's soul has traveled to is deemed *The Further* and is supposedly the place where other already deceased peoples' souls reside, waiting to prance on Dalton's body in order to be alive again. The rest of the plot besides the parents rescuing their son from *The Further* entirely fades away in the second half as well, leaving any connection with the characters that had started to build in the first half diminished. My last complaint is the ‘surprise twist ending’ that is practically expected now thanks to every recent horror movie ending the same unfortunate way.

As a die-hard fan of the horror movie genre, I have recently been very chagrined by the lack of good scary movies being produced nowadays. There have been few if any superb horror movies in the past couple years and movies such as *Insidious* are the reason people have been steadily more unsatisfied with the genre. A horror movie has not done a good job if an audience is laughing in a scene where they are supposed to be trembling in fear and walking out of the theater with the movie already out of their minds. A good scary movie should be stuck on replay in the viewer's head for days and give them the kind of fear that makes them scared to go to bed at night after seeing the movie earlier that day. Until there is another horror flick equal to that of *The Ring* or *The Grudge* and the scary movie genre makes a comeback, the masses of once-fans will continue to be sadly let down with flops such as *Insidious*.

Spotlight

Michelle Principi



By **MICHELLE HOWARD, I**
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

First off, I want my name back. Just kidding, although that's definitely what I was thinking on the first day of second grade. I was shocked to hear people calling my name on the playground and discover that they weren't talking to me. Since then, not much has changed.

For those of you who don't know her, let me just say that Michelle Principi is going to be famous. And when she is, people will finally start pronouncing her last name correctly. Her current claim to fame is that she looks like Taylor Swift, and is the greatest declaimer in the history of the world. Last year, I was privileged enough to witness the awe-inspiring performance that won Michelle Prize Dec last year—as a junior. Unfortunately, being a junior meant she couldn't be awarded the \$10,000 prize money last year though, in my humble opinion, her being a junior only made her more deserving of the money. And even when she's cheated out of \$10,000, Michelle is still the anti-diva.

Her other accomplishments include her commitment as a percussionist since sixie year (I could mention sixth grade band class, but she would only roll her eyes), foreign language declamation and theater. Her performances with Guild represent only the tip of the iceberg as far as her acting career is concerned. She was involved in many award winning productions including *Tilt Angel*, *Dark Play*, and *The Realm* (which she assistant directed). Starting next year, she will be able to fully recognize her acting aspirations as a theater major at Boston College.

But long before she fell in love with acting, she fell in love with Irish Step: she has been competing her whole life, and will be attending Irish Step Nationals for the third year in a row this summer. Another thing that has never changed is a work ethic that is nothing less than extraordinary, and a factor in her Step accomplishments. As of today, she is the only person I know who is capable of starting and finishing a project a week before it's due.

This, of course, enables her to get straight A's almost every term and hold the supreme title of President of the National Honor Society. It also, no doubt, helped her admission into the BC honors program Early Decision. Somehow, she was the only one who was surprised.

So, Michelle, I hope you enjoyed this dissertation. Thank you for being my twin for the past 11 years of my life, and for being the mastermind behind some of our greatest schemes including “C=SNA: the play,” (the title of which has been changed for confidentiality) “How to make money on a play no one wants to see,” “How to be stealth when it's not really necessary,” and conversely, “How to rat out your best friend for a crime she didn't commit without any prompting whatsoever.” Honestly, I don't know what I'm going to do once I get my identity back... maybe join the CIA so that I can escape the boredom of just being me? See you there. *Cue Mission Impossible theme music*

Spotlight

Andrea Maistros



FACEBOOK.COM

By **KELLY MCKINNON, I**
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Andrea Maistros, or Andi (or as I affectionately call her, Rapunzel/WonderWoman), is one of the most amiable people I've ever met and one of my closest friends. I first met Andrea last year through mutual friends, and I can honestly say that I wish I had met her sooner. For those of you who don't know Andrea, she can usually be found around the music wing or loudly squealing and bobbing about the halls in random spasms of hysteria, typical of her bubbly and, as some might say, insane personality.

Andrea is entirely multi-faceted. The girl does it all and still manages to be an extremely talented student. It's not surprising though, considering she has the ability to spew random factoids at me daily and seems to know the minutest details about everything. I was actually just informed about the root of the word factoid yesterday (it comes from Greek and means "shaped like a fact", in case you didn't know). If you've ever seen the show *Bones* (one of the many, many, shows she and I now watch and love), think of the intern Nigel Murray when you think of Andrea.

Academics aside, Andrea is a very gifted musician. Her singing abilities leave all listeners speechless. (Trust me, I would know after listening to her sing everything from Def Leppard to any Disney song you could possibly imagine). Andrea is a member of numerous singing groups at BLS, including Show Choir, Concert Choir and Chamber choir, and she has remained a dedicated member of every one of them. She has been a member of Show Choir for the past four years, and for the the past two, she's been one of the dance captains.

Speaking of dancing, Andrea is also a dancer. She has been dancing since she was two years old, and continues to do so today. She can sometimes be seen practicing her backwards somersaults in rain boots in the basement, though I assure you that she is much more graceful when she isn't wearing clunky footwear.

In addition to being musically gifted and a Disney princess, Andrea recently received her black belt in karate. Considering she has demonstrated her fighting skills on me and others, I would say that her black belt is well deserved (though she still cannot move Chris Keenan an inch no matter how hard she tries).

All jokes aside, I will miss the train rides home with Andrea (head bobbing and all), and the daily insanity that comes with being her friend. Andrea has been a big help to me over the past year in so many ways, and I love her for it. She is a genuinely wonderful person, and I know she'll continue being the amazing person she is now when she heads off to Colgate University, her dream school, in the fall. (Oh, and please give her toothpaste. She thinks it's very funny. Really.)

A & E

Going for Gold

By **ANDREA MAISTROS, I**
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

MICCA, or the Massachusetts Instrumental & Choral Conductors Association, is the only judged performance in which all sections of BLS' music department participate in collectively. With three different judged categories, orchestra, vocal singing (chorus) and band, MICCA draws high school groups from all over the state hoping to strut their stuff and come home with the honorary and highly coveted bronze, silver or gold medal.

This year, Concert Choir is going for gold. Saturday, April 9, all 90-something of us will be attending MICCA, hoping for nothing but the best. As the only ranked performance that Concert Choir participates in, MICCA has been the focal point of our year as a chorus. Mr. Snyder has even begun ranking how well we sing each period in bronze, silver or gold. Leaving the school at one o'clock on Saturday, we will arrive at Norwood and have about an hour or so in the practice room to warm-up and run through this year's pieces: Oseh Shalom, Non Nobis Domine and Jenga Imani Yako. Warm-ups is a always a tense time at any vocal com-

petition, as all of the participating groups share the same room, making across the room glares a relatively comment occurrence. At three o'clock, it's show time. Before beginning each song, we have to wait for the cue from the imperious panel of judges. This takes much longer than one would think, about five minutes of waiting between every song, during which we are instructed to stay completely still and silent. This paired with the extremely warm stage lights, the anxious desire we all have to please the judges, and the wish to earn that little grin and fist pump from Mr.Snyder when we actually manage to pull off a song, and what results is an extremely jittery choral ensemble.

For Concert or Chamber Choir members who have never attended before, MICCA is certainly an experience. With hectic chorus directors attempting to reign in their students, and choruses dressed in the strangest outfits (who from last year could forget that group who were all dressed as medieval royalty?), MICCA is the epitome of the frenzied, unorganized and generally off-schedule fiasco that musical performances tend to be known for. And then there's the definite feeling of determination surrounding everyone: we all want a gold ranking. You

can see it in the giddy faces of the other chorus students, and feel it in the anxious pit in your stomach while waiting to go on and which resurfaces in between every song sung. It is the ultimate proof of a chorus' worth, especially a chorus like the Boston Latin School Concert Choir, for which MICCA is our only source of outside judgement. How we perform and how we are judged means so much to us as a chorus. Doing well and getting great reception from the judges not only validates all of the hard work we do as a group (when we could be having a study), but we also receive an objective, unbiased response on our skills as a chorus from trained musicians. Doing well at MICCA means more than any Music Night we could perform at, simply because our audience here is mainly comprised of friends and family, who are all inclined to compliment us (at least to our faces) and love us despite a bad performance.

Going into MICCA, we can only hope that our many months of hard work will prove to be enough to win us a gold medal. On Saturday, we are planning to sing our hearts out and hope for the best, while keeping in mind that we have done the best we can. Let's just hope the judges think so too.

My Life as Liz

By **OLIVIA MCCORMICK, II**
STAFF WRITER

As spring approaches each year, MTV airs new seasons of some of its best shows, and this year was no exception. The Real World is always fun to watch, especially when it is in Sin City, and Rob Dyrdek's Fantasy Factory is always good for a laugh, but *My Life as Liz*, which is now in its second season, is genuinely good television.

My Life as Liz is a hybrid of reality and scripted television. The show depicts her life, but she is not followed around by video cameras and TV producers in her everyday life. It is her life, the way she sees it, with her friends, family and enemies all playing themselves in the venues that the events actually occurred in. The result of blending the two genres, however, is more real than the vast majority of reality TV shows. In what is quite possibly the best aspect of the show, Liz narrates the saga that is her life and gives her testimony directly to the camera.

The first season followed Liz Lee, a Texan high school senior, as she

progressed from passive and comfortable to assertive and confident, as she struggled with typical high school bullies, and as she fell in love with a boy who was almost perfect for her, his one flaw being that he had a girlfriend. Obviously, Liz was ostracized for her oddities at her traditional high school. Her interests include Star Wars, Lord of the Rings, thrift store shopping and film-making, so she did not exactly fit in. Liz, however, refused to submit to her alienation and stood up for what she believed in. She even took an anti-hunting stance in a state where hunting is everyone's favorite pastime. Though she was not friendless, her friends were considered to be some of the biggest nerds in school, but they also happened to be the nicest people.

In the end, despite being at the bottom of the social pyramid for most of her high school career, Liz came out on top. Her enemy's best friend, Taylor Terry, switched over from the dark side and became Liz's closest confidant. Liz successfully got the guy, was accepted into her dream school and escaped the monotony of Burleson, Texas.

Though Liz ultimately got everything she wanted at the end of Season One, Season Two was less idealized. What happens after one's dreams come true? For Liz, her happily-ever-after was transitory, but her spirit, though battered and bruised, remains unbroken. She is back in Burleson for the summer and once again, is facing a lot of adversity. With the help of her friends, however, she refuses to let that stop her.

In an age where bullying is seen as one of the most important issues that youths face, it is extremely important that a story like this one is told. Liz may have been bullied, but she never let it defeat her, nor did she submit to what she did not believe in. She stood up to her antagonists with poise, never becoming a bully herself, which is exactly what other downtrodden teens should try to emulate. Her life may not be perfect, but she makes the best of it. Season Two, in which Liz comes to terms with the imperfections of her life despite all her accomplishments, is shaping up to be even better than Season One.

Horoscopes

By **RACHEL TRIPP, I**
& **LUKE MCKINNON, I**
A&E EDITOR & SPORTS EDITOR

Aries (March 21 - April 19) - Live every week like it's Shark Week. Enough said.

Taurus (April 20 - May 20) - This is not the month to wear your heart on your sleeve. That seemingly perfect person might turn out to be a heart-breaker, so keep your head down 'til things start to look up.

Gemini (May 21 - June 20) - You will be coming into some good luck this month, Gemini. Keep your eyes open for all those money-making opportunities that will be hiding just around the corner.

Cancer (June 21 - July 22) - Always remember what you try hardest

to forget. Remember that thing you were supposed to do last week? You're welcome.

Leo (July 23 - August 22) - Wiz Khalifa is speaking directly to you. You could be more like him.

Virgo (August 23 - September 22) - Don't let college rejections and bad grades in Latin get you down; you're still beautiful to me.

Libra (September 23 - October 22) - It's never too early to start swimming in the Charles River. Happy Spring.

Scorpio (October 23 - November 21) - Scorpio, remember to pack extra clothes on your upcoming adventure: you may find yourself in for a longer stay than you origi-

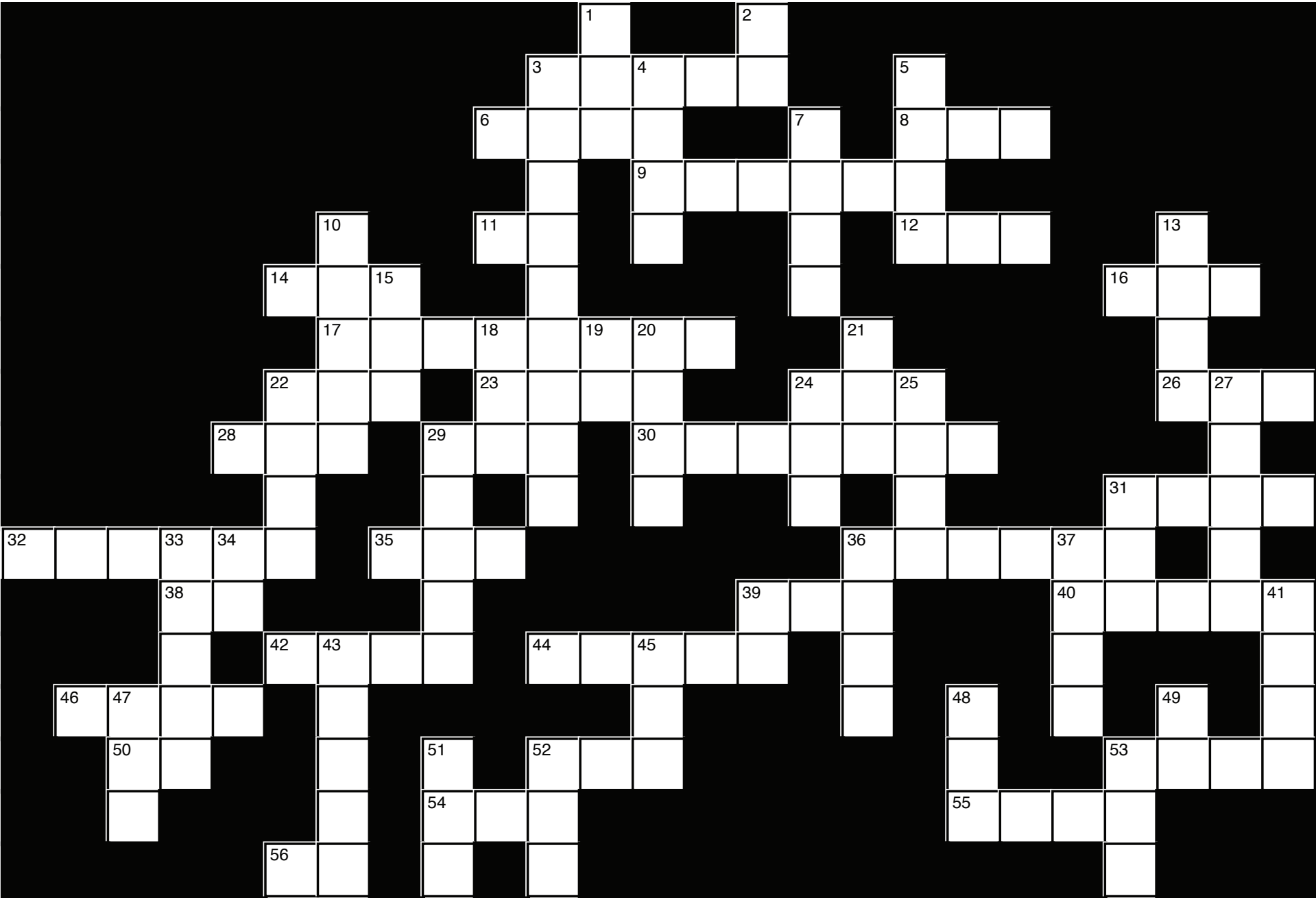
nally thought. Speaking of which, throw any plans you had out the window.

Sagittarius (November 22 - December 21) - Oh valiant hunter, your Pennsylvanian brothers request your companionship on their present hunting moon.

Capricorn (December 22 - January 19) - "Friends are people that you think are your friends But they really are your enemies— with secret identities"

Aquarius (January 20 - February 18) - Do it for the love.

Pisces (February 19 - March 20) - Beware of extraterrestrial visitors, Pisces, or at the very least choose a circle of friends who will believe you once you try to tell them you've met one.



Across

Down

3. An internal organ; a punctuation mark

6. Lovable red muppet

8. ____ and Flow: movements of the tide

9. Henry Ford invented this automobile

11. Four, to Brutus

12. A beautiful species of evergreen plants (unless they're poison)

14. A slangy greeting

16. Shakespeare exclamation of disdain

17. Jay-Z has 99 of these

22. Muhammed Ali floats like a butterfly, stings like this

23. New Haven Ivy

24. That 70's Show foreign exchange student

26. A deer/moose species

28. Fish eggs

29. According to The Dream, Shawty is this number

30. Gollum before he went cray-cray

31. Color of the official Argo carnation, and a certain Panthers
32. Location of the Civil War's first shots, in 1861

35. A shade of color

36. Spicy sushi addendum

38. He, she, or this

39. Gnarlles Barkley alias: ____-Lo Green

40. Home to the March Madness champions, and the Women's Basketball Team with the most consecutive victories in NCAA history

42. Made of potatoes, or chocolate

44. Pink single: 'Raise Your ____'

46. Trucker president?

50. Yes, to Heidi

52. Fifth solfege note

53. Swiss capital

54. Broom companion/Swiffer enemy

55. 'Pretty Girl Rock' singer: ____ Hilson

56. Responsible for the TD's? (abbr.)
1. Half a cheerleader's accessories

2. Element No. 30

3. Predecessor and successor to Harrison

4. Togo capital

5. Nepali snow creature

7. Predecessor and successor to O'Brien

10. Indian currency

13. Sneaker brand

15. Before prefix

18. A free pass, in tournaments; Adieu!

19. Male prefix, in Spanish

20. Above the strato (abbr.)

21. The biggest 'little woman'

22. A series of wars in South Africa

24. Phone and mail alternative

25. French novelist in support of Dreyfus; author of J'Accuse

27. Leader of the Bolsheviks

29. 2012 Republican presidential candidate
31. BLS employment office (abbr.)

33. Prom queen accessory

34. Latest Katy Perry single, featuring Kanye West (abbr.)

36. Family Guy mayor; cardinal point

37. The worth of a bird in the hand: two in this

39. Element No. 55

41. No, to Friedrich

43. Traditional head covering for Muslim women

45. Yahoo! competitor

47. An eye, in Spanish

48. Rebecca Black recording studio: ____ Music Factory

49. Element No. 54

51. Time zone standard (abbr.)

52. Measure of sunscreen efficacy (abbr.)

53. Rainbow mnemonic surname (as in Roy G. ____)

Sudokus

Easy

						4		2
			3	6		9	1	5
	1	8	4		2	3	6	
5				9	6	4		
6	8			2			5	
4	7	9			8	1	2	
3		7			6			
	6							
				2			1	4

Diabolical

		4						9
				3		5		
					2		1	
5				6			8	
	2				3			7
6	1						2	3
					9			7
			8		4			
	7						6	5
								2

SPORTS

Who is more likely to win a championship this year?



Celtics

By Devin Kirby, I
Sports Editor

Boston Bruins versus Philadelphia Flyers, 2010. That is why the Bruins will not win a championship this year. But I have a whole column to fill. So here it goes:

The Celtics just have an easier road to the Finals than the Bruins do. As a second seed in the East, the Celtics open the postseason against the seventh seeded Philadelphia 76ers, a barely-over-500 team that Boston has beat three out of their four meetings in the regular season. After that, the C’s play either the Miami Heat or the New York Knicks, both teams that the Celtics have winning records against, including a 3-0 regular season series sweep of Miami. To top it off, the Celtics have home court advantage in either matchup.

The Eastern Conference Finals are going to be where the Celtics face their first real test, as they will probably play the first seeded Chicago Bulls without a home court advantage. If not the Bulls, they will face the Orlando Magic or even the Atlanta Hawks, both teams whose athleticism and dominant big men (Dwight Howard and the Hawks combo of All-Star Al Horford and Josh Smith) create major problems for the Celtics. Besides the Eastern Conference Finals and the National Basketball Association Finals, where the C’s could play anyone from the league-best 60-19 San Antonio Spurs to the 44-34 eighth seeded Memphis Grizzlies, the Celtics will play two series where they are the heavy favorites.

The Bruins, on the other hand, open the postseason on a completely different note, playing the Montreal Canadiens in the opening round of the National Hockey League playoffs. The bright side is that the Bruins will have the home ice advantage; on the other hand, they will be pressured into winning both games before going to an extremely hostile Montreal environment against a team who is 4-2 against them in the regular season. If they even make it out of the first round, the B’s will have to play higher and higher seeds, including possibly another second-round matchup against the Philadelphia Flyers.

I’m not even going to compare coaching or personnel. To be honest, I don’t know the Bruins staff and bench in the same depth I know the Celtic’s. A comparison wouldn’t be fair. But, as an avid Celtics fan, I will say this: healthy, there are few teams as deep and experienced as the Green Team. With Shaq, KG, Jermaine O’Neal, Nenad Krstic, and Troy Murphy, the Celtics have 5 virtually 7-foot players. Jeff Green has come into his own as a Celtic, and Carlos Arroyo and Sasha Pavlovic have proved they can contribute as well. Led by Glen “Big Baby” Davis, the Celtic bench is going to be a force to be reckoned with, behind one of, arguably, the best starting lineups in basketball. Doc Rivers and his staff are one of the better organizations in the NBA, and the mountains of experience the team has from top to bottom makes the Celtics perennially a postseason force. Again, this is not to say the Bruins aren’t any of these things. These are just the facts for the Celtics.

The Bruins and the Celtics are both really good teams, steeped in tradition, with tons of playoff experience and plenty of talent to go deep into their respective postseasons, if not all the way. The difference is this: the Celtics don’t lose in the second round of the playoffs. The Celtics always turn it on in the postseason, no matter how lackluster their season endings are or how banged up their roster is. Plus, an easier schedule never hurt anybody. I am sure the Bruins will love getting together and watching the Celtics go further than them this year, all the way to Championship Banner #18.

Bruins

By Mike Tomasini, I
Sports Editor

My aunt Mary worked for the Boston Bruins organization for roughly a third of a century. She once told me that she would never retire until the Bruins won a Stanley Cup. This year, she retired.

It has been almost forty years since Lord Stanley’s treasured Cup has been paraded through the streets of Beantown. Not since the likes of Orr and Esposito has this city been able to wholeheartedly embrace its legacy as the true hub of hockey. Sure, they’ve come close. In each of the past two seasons they have been mere minutes away from a spot in the Eastern Conference Finals, only to have it cruelly snatched away. Are Bruins fans less worthy somehow? Are the B’s destined to be beatable, to be baffling, to be, simply put, bad? This can’t happen. Not this season. Not again. This is our year.

The Celtics? They’ve grown complacent. Just a few days ago they were lit up by the Chicago Bulls AKA Derrick Rose, and they didn’t even put up a fight. Sure, there is talent on the Celtics roster. It would be stupid to rule out a deep run into the playoffs. Maybe they’ll even make it to the finals again this season. On paper, they are contenders. But where is the sense of urgency? Banner 17 already hangs from the Garden rafters. Compared with the hunger and the voracity that the Bruins will have come playoff time, the Celtics’ chance of hanging banner 18 this year becomes almost laughable.

But as the saying goes, haters gonna hate. Readers are doubtless going to look incredulously on this column. Comparing Kevin Garnett and his intense squad against Zdeno Chara’s disinterested team that I called named the Ruins just over a year ago? It’s no comparison, they will say. But that is where the B’s are grossly underestimated. I’ll be the first to admit that the Bruins have been fully deserving of the bad rep they have gotten for their playoff performance. Three of their last three playoff runs have ended with a Game 7 loss within the first two rounds. That is embarrassing. High expectations have caused them to disappoint fans time and time again. This time everyone secretly expects them to fail.

Everyone, frankly, except the B’s themselves. Alternate team captain Mark “The Ageless One” Recchi, skating with the best of them at 42 years old, chose not to quit this year for the sole reason that he believes in Boston. Tim Thomas is having the best season of his career, and is a lock for his second Vezina Trophy in three years. Patrice Bergeron and David Krejci have over 50 points apiece, and Milan Lucic has become the B’s first 30 goal scorer since Phil Kessel. The streaky Bruins who lose in game seven are gone. In their place are determined, borderline desperate warriors who will give up anything to win it all this year. How to the guys in green answer that? Let’s just put it this way: Shawn Thornton got his face cut open by an opposing player’s skate a couple of games ago. Despite the torrent of blood that was gushing down his face, he tried to stay on the ice and fight half of the Chicago Blackhawks before being hauled away. A couple days later Shaquille O’Neal returned for the Celtics after being infamously injured for half the season. About a quarter later, Shaq gave up on playing basketball and returned to the injury list, where he’ll likely stay for a good long while.

The Bruins want to play and they want to win. Shaq and the Celtics just want to look good. That is the difference between them, and that is why, come June, the B’s will be getting showered with confetti in their Championship parade while the Celtics will be at home watching Celtic Pride.

Spotlight
Mike Desalvo



By Mike Favorito, I
Contributing Writer

In a class of 380 kids, it’s hard to know everybody. But there is always that one kid that everybody just seems to know. Whether you’ve had a class with him, played a sport with him, or just smelled him from halfway down the hallway, just about everybody has met Mike Desalvo. Crowned with the nickname “Dirty D” by the infamous Ali Ghorbi back in the 8th grade, Mike Desalvo has become a legend in the halls of Boston Latin School. As the self-proclaimed “King of Park Drive”, Mike can always be seen rolling in his mom’s 2001 Ford Taurus through the mean streets of West Roxbury and Roslindale. Living on the border, he also claims that he has the ability to go to sleep in Roslindale and take a shower in West Roxbury because “that’s how he rolls”.

Aside from his powerful 2.7 GPA, Dirty D has left his mark on both Franklin Park Golf Course and Moakley Field, both figuratively and literally. No other baseball team has been graced with the power of this left-handed menace since the likes of Sandy Koufax, Barry Zito, and Randy Johnson. If I were to describe Mike’s life in one word, it would be baseball. Desalvo holds the world record for most baseball memorabilia stashed away in his room. If it weren’t for baseball, I wouldn’t have met Mike playing on the same Little League team and I wouldn’t have been able to watch him grow into the legend that he is today.

Dirty D also is known for having the most interesting family in the tri-state area. He lives at home with his lovely mother Mary, his father Artie “The One Man Party”, his brother Anthony “Trashy T”, and his dog Calvin, who seems to be the only sane person in that household. When asked about his family, Armando Carlo-Gonzalez had this to say: “Dirty D should be sent far, far away. His mother deserves a Purple Heart and the Congressional Medal of Honor.” No matter when you see Mike, he’s always doing something entertaining; whether he’s twitching around like Dan Aykroyd or pretending to be Slim Shady, Desalvo never fails to entertain. Next year, Mike will be taking his talents to UMass Amherst. Seems pretty fit for him to go to a zoo, doesn’t it?

To quote what I’m sure is his favorite movie of all time, “Heroes are remembered but legends never die”. I’m sure that is exactly what will happen to the legacy of Mike “Dirty D” Desalvo in the coming years at Boston Latin School.

Perfect Form

By **LUKE MCKINNON, I**
SPORTS EDITOR

High School Sailing isn't a very well-studied sport. Some would argue that it isn't a sport at all. I wouldn't argue that. I would suggest that you go see for yourself whether or not sailing is a sport. Your school has its very own sailing team. Believe it. If you already knew this, that's good. To those of you who don't, let me explain. Every Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday about twenty boys and girls from literally every grade go sailing together. The ladies and gentlemen hike through the Fens and the South End, all the way to the very end of the Greenway on the Green Line. Then, they take a hospital shuttle bus to the Charlestown Navy Yard. It's a serious commute. Almost all of the people who don't make the team are people who can't make the commute.

So there's clearly dedication. This isn't a bunch of rascals who complain all day about the sport. Sailing team doesn't dread practice or lament their joining, unlike other sports teams at our school. Sailing is nice. When you sail, you go out on Boston Harbor, enjoy the breeze, use your brains, not your muscles and just leisurely float along. After all, one thing you

learn in life is not to drive angry. Sailing team doesn't sail angry. They don't sweat the small stuff. They stay focused not on the annoying details, but on the big picture. They use teamwork to achieve

so much more. "Coach" is a word that barely begins to describe their role and dedication to the team.

This team has heart for sure, and they have done well this season. Sailing team has a consistent and pretty even win-loss record. Boston Latin's team also is a much respected team in the league, not because they are a formidable opponent, which they are, but also because they are gentleman mariners. The sailing team is a classy team. They are always making sure that their opponents have their piecosts and henweighs in order. So this team has etiquette, dedication, heart and smarts. You don't really see that in clubs or school organizations. You'd be lucky to get two of the above. They're athletes, warrior-poets, heroes and winners.

Sailing team isn't the toughest, the fastest or the strongest, but they're working on it. This year, the team is the youngest it has ever been, with a promising influx of brand new bright-eyed seventh and eighth graders. In a few weeks, sailing team will have won some meets, learned some tricks and made new friends. In a few weeks, spring will start to feel like spring; it'll get warm. One thing you still might not know about sailing team: when the sun comes out, the guns come out.



NICE BOAT

optimal performance. I know I'm giving a little too much credit to the team, so I'd like to explain why this all works out like it does. Sailing team is graced with the presence of two fantastic sailors and educators to lead the team from outside of the sailboat. Dave Dilorenzo and Cha O'Connell are the "coaches" of the Boston Latin School Sailing team, but they really are

Cricket Cup a Smashing Hit

By **SANCHAY JAIN, '10**
BLS ALUMNUS

Contrary to what American sports fans believe, football (the American version) is not the second most popular sport in the world. Nor is basketball, baseball, or even hockey.

The second most popular sport is cricket.

Of course, your initial reaction may be to say, "shut up, Sanchay," but the numbers do not lie.

Consider the World Cup that took place during March, hosted by India, Sri Lanka, and Bangladesh. Over one billion people viewed the semi-final match between India and Pakistan—a rivalry that is even more explosive than our familiar Yankees-Red Sox rivalry.

There are only two sporting events up till now that can boast a similar claim: the opening ceremony of the 2008 Olympics in Beijing, and the 2010 World Cup Final between the Netherlands and Spain. In comparison, the 2011 Super Bowl between the Pittsburgh Steelers and the Green Bay Packers attracted around 200 million viewers.

What makes cricket such an incredible sport? It is the ultimate test of skill, stamina, and concentration. Cricket, often compared to the American counterpart baseball, is divided into overs, which is a set of six "bowls" (pitches) delivered by one "bowler" (pitcher). In the World Cup, each team bats within an allotted fifty over, which means a World

Cup match is a full-day affair. And fifty overs is an abbreviated form of cricket. This year's World Cup featured fourteen teams, which were divided into two Groups of seven teams. Group play

229 runs were no match for Sri Lanka's opening batsmen Tillakaratne Dilshan and Upal Tharanga, who scored 231 runs by themselves.

In the first semifinal match, Sri Lanka defeated New Zealand, scoring 220 runs to overcome New Zealand's 217 runs. Sri Lanka stifled the New Zealand batsmen, with bowler Ajantha Mendis taking 3 wickets. Meanwhile, Dilshan once again stepped up big with 73 runs, while captain Kumar Sangakkara scored 54 runs. The second semifinal was arguably the most-anticipated match of the tournament, and India won fairly decisively over Pakistan. After scoring 260 runs, led by Sachin Tendulkar's 85, the Indian bowlers held the Pakistanis to 231 runs.

The final match, held in Mumbai, was breathtakingly close. Sri Lanka seemed to falter in the beginning, but eventually was able to score a daunting 274 runs. Mahila Jayawardene scored a century for Sri Lanka. When India's turn came to bat, they also began miserably, with opening batsmen Virender Sehwag and Tendulkar—playing his last World Cup match ever—getting out for a combined 18 runs, thanks to the bowling of Lasith Malinga. However, the remaining batsmen, led by Gautam Gambhir's 97 runs and captain Mahindra Singh Dhoni's 91 runs, played well, and when Dhoni smashed a sixer (home-run) in the 49th over, Indians throughout the world—myself included—were jumping around in ecstasy.



INDIAN CRICKET TEAM CELEBRATES AFTER CHAMPIONSHIPS

was in round robin format, with the top four teams at the end advancing to the quarterfinals. From Group A, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Australia, and New Zealand advanced to the quarterfinals, while from Group B, South Africa, India, England, and the West Indies advanced. In the quarterfinals, Pakistan destroyed the West Indies, holding the Caribbean team to 112 runs before scoring 113 without losing a single wicket (nobody got out). India knocked out three-time defending champion Australia by chasing Australia's total of 260 runs and scoring 261 runs. New Zealand set a score of 221 runs that South Africa was unable to approach. And England's

Spotlight David Vyshedsky



By **LUKE MCKINNON, I**
SPORTS EDITOR

If you had to be trapped on a desert island with one person, who would it be? I would highly recommend you take David Vyshedsky on your island adventure. This is an important decision, so please let me try to explain exactly why David is the right man for you. When you're on a desert island, you need someone with a certain degree of fame to help attract media attention so that they send rescuers. David is known far and wide for his wrestling prowess and ability to subdue foes of many sizes. On that point, if you're on a deserted island, you need a good wrestler to help protect you from apes and all sorts of creatures much stronger than yourself. With David at your side, your chance of survival exponentially increases.

David Vyshedsky was wrestling team captain this year. As captain of the Varsity Wrestling Team, it is understood that David always makes weight class. Making your weight class is a result of fasting and extreme exercise regimens. If he's willing to do this to himself willingly, imagine how well he could perform in an environment where he actually has to go for long periods of time without eating. I've seen him go a whole week on a four bananas and a pair of red apples. That's a little less than one piece of fruit a day. If you were on a deserted island with him, you would eat like a king.

You would also probably pick up styling tips that you can't get anywhere else. David is secretly one of the best dressed men you will meet. Why, might you ask, is David's swag important your ability to survive on an island? It's not, but you never know. It might give you peace of mind. David's style is part of the larger issue at hand. Let it be said and known emphatically that David is "a hard ten." When people are asked how they would rate him on a scale of one to ten they don't even think about it. They just shout out, "hard ten" and everyone nods in a grand consensus of wisdom.

In another wise move, I'm going to move past these surface level facts. It isn't just about the island with David. Of course, he is healthy, stylish and smart. But more importantly, David is a dear friend of mine. Just being in his presence is relaxing and enjoyable. For example, If David kicked a football and it hit a passing car that pulled over, he would run. That's a smart call. He did that one time and I was having a pretty good time just running behind him. He's a great friend, an inspiring brother, a high caliber student, a fast runner, a trend setter of jeans, an edgy comedian, an unparalleled dancer, a terrific baller, a movie connoisseur and a complete smoke-show in general. We all love you David.

So, when you make your choice of who to take on your island extravaganza in the wild, consider my man David Vyshedsky. And when you pick him, take good care of him.

March Madness

By Devin Kirby, I
Sports Editor

Well, not to brag or anything...but I have called the winner of March Madness two years running now. “Oh no Devin, you’re crazy having Duke in the Final Four! And winning it all? Just plain stupid!” Well, guess who gets the last laugh. “Yeah okay, you got lucky last year...no way UConn gets past Ohio State.” You naysayers should have learned your lesson last year.

To be fair, I gave Butler the same treatment. After going to the finals last year, and a game-winning half-court prayer rimmed out at the buzzer, I had them slated to be out in the first round to Old Dominion and was shocked, shocked I tell you, that they made it back again this year. Butler clawed, inch by inch, Al-Pacino-in-Any-Given-Sunday-style through tough games. Although overshadowed by the Cinderella story that was Virginia Com-

monwealth University (VCU), Butler, as an eighth seed, knocked off a powerful fifth seed in Kansas State and a surprisingly good fourth seed in Wisconsin, culminating in a terrific game over second seed Florida and a well-deserved win over VCU in the Final Four.

The University of Connecticut had a somewhat easier route as a third seed, stomping Bucknell and then Cincinnati

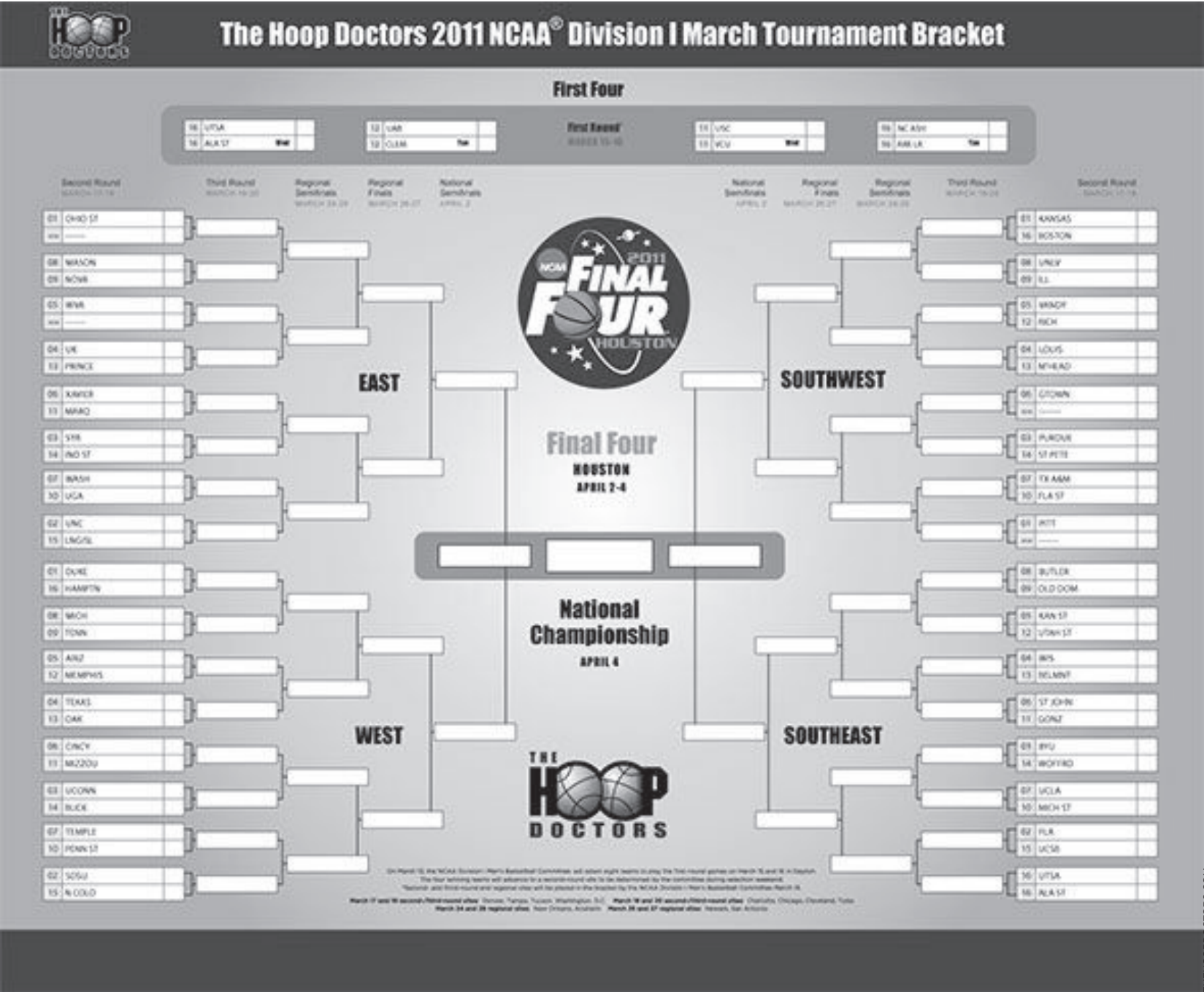
from their usually thrilling roster, especially Kemba. They won almost solely on freshman swingman Jeremy Lamb, whose performance would usually be considered mediocre, and dominated the paint with intimidating big men Charles Okwandu and, one of my favorite big guys in the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), Alex Oriakhi.

The tournament, however, ended up leaving a bad taste in my mouth. Before I explain why, let me say this: I am not a huge fan of NCAA basketball. I do not like the one-and-done culture that schools like Kansas University and Kentucky University have helped foster, of kids barely a year older than me leaving college to join the National Basketball Association. College is where you grow as a player, the place where the mental, emotional and technical foundations that a true professional needs are fostered. Imagine if now-pro center DeMarcus Cousins had developed his jump shot and maturity in another year of college; if upcoming superstar John Wall spent another year on his shot. Derrick Rose turned the Bulls into a first seed in the NBA and himself into a likely Most Valuable Player by getting a jumper. Problem is, for Rose, that process took three off-seasons combined with three 82-game regular seasons. Point being, the NBA does not foster personal

Kentucky University, recruit kids they would not normally accept, like Derrick Rose and his clearly forged SAT scores, and then shove them through a year of college just to play basketball, taking away from the real fun of college basketball: the fan involvement. Student-athletes are, at some schools, not even really considered students. They are a strange, alien entity, exempt from classes and usually tuition to play basketball. This translates, obviously, to less fan support. UConn was a prime example of this during the tournament. At the finals game, UConn allotted 800 free tickets, let me repeat, free tickets, to the game for its students, provided they get to Houston, a meager four hour plane ride. One would think the school would be super-excited; UConn was, after all, heavily favored to win. As it turns out, significantly less than expected actually came, and UConn, to recoup their losses, handed the tickets to nearby Rice University, essentially giving them away. As a result, almost half of UConn’s fan section was made up of Rice kids, who cheered for Butler. One attendee, the captain of Rice’s football team, spouted his admiration of the underdog Butler team, citing them as an inspiration for an apparently struggling football squad. Besides embarrassing UConn, this really demonstrates a major problem in NCAA basketball: the lack of true fan support. I can only speculate to what causes it. To me, this problem goes hand in hand with the sketchy recruiting process of some, maybe most, powerhouse schools and the unfair advantages college athletes get. This of course, stems from the me-first attitude of the NBA, and the whole system catering to individuals instead of teams. I could sit here all day and tell you why I should take David Stern’s job...but that is beside the point.

Let me sum it up: UConn won. Kemba Walker is silly-good. Jeremy Lamb is going to be silly-good. Shabazz Napier has a silly name and played at Charles-

town so we should all love him. The Butler Bulldogs are an actual contender, regardless of their seeding. Matt Howard is frail and looks like Andy Samberg and/or Jesse Eisenberg. That other big white dude (Andrew Smith?) on Butler is just straight bad. That German kid on UConn is named Giffy, but his name is pronounced Giff-ay. Alex Oriakhi is a boss. John Calipari is a greasy little weasel. Boom. March Madness.



A MARCH MADNESS NCAA BRACKET

monwealth University (VCU), Butler, as an eighth seed, knocked off a powerful fifth seed in Kansas State and a surprisingly good fourth seed in Wisconsin, culminating in a terrific game over second seed Florida and a well-deserved win over VCU in the Final Four.

The University of Connecticut had a somewhat easier route as a third seed, stomping Bucknell and then Cincinnati

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growth. If you are not a contributor, you do not play. It took Tyler Hansbrough, one of the better college players, almost three years to crack the rotation for the Indiana Pacers, who frankly are not even good. The NBA is a business, and like all businesses, if you do not put in as much as you are paid, you are done. Remember Hasheem Thabeet? Point proven. These systems, like in

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Sports Tidbits

>> LeBron James bought a minority stake in FC Liverpool in exchange for a partnership between the Boston Red Sox and his personal sports-market firm, LRMR Branding & Marketing. The same corporation owns both the Sox and Liverpool.

>> Gloria James, LeBron’s mom, was arrested at a posh Miami hotel for ‘misdemeanor assault.’ This adds to Gloria’s already impressive resume, which includes Driving Under the Influence and a public indecency charge.

>> Red Sox starting catcher Jerod Saltamacchia recently got married to his

old high school gym teacher...who is 16 years older than him.

>> Victoria’s Secret Pink introduced the official Red Sox ‘Pink Hat,’ a regularly-colored Sox cap with PINK on the back. Genius.

>> A New York Rangers (their NHL team) fan says on live television, “getting married will be the worst day of my

life.”

>> The ESPN panel of eight members votes Bill Belichick as the best NFL head coach in the game, the first unanimous winner in ESPN individual Power Ranking history.

>> Former New England Patriot star Mike Vrabel arrested...for trying to rob a casino. Leave it to Clooney, kid.